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The Chestertown Story

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Home town of the Maslins, Lambs, Blackistons, Glenns, Becks, & others ancestors of Margaret Estelle Maslin Shrewsbury

October 5 - 13, 1956 **Souvenir Program $1.00**

Mrs. M. Lyman - 3445 So 2nd E SLC, ~~3445~~ 84115

Kent County . . . .

DATES TO REMEMBER

1608, Summer	John Smith Visits Kent
1642, December 16	Kent Officially Founded
1652	First Church on Eastern Shore
1672, July	First County Seat, Eastern Neck Island
1668	Arrival of the Quakers
1674	St. Peter's Church, New Yarmouth, built
1675	New Yarmouth Officially Founded
1680	First Race Track, New Yarmouth
1692	"Rock Of Ages", first house in Chestertown
1692	St. Paul's, Shrewsbury, parishes laid out
1694	Chestertown Custom House built
1694	Kent Flag and Seal officially presented
1698	Quaker Meeting House, Lynch, built
1706	Chestertown officially founded
1706	Kent Free School founded
1707	First Courthouse built in Chestertown
1707	Rock Hall founded
1756, September	Ship donated to fight French
1757	British marines stationed in Chestertown
1774, September 2	Washington's first visit here
1774, May 23	Chestertown's "Tea Party"
1781, October 19	Tench Tilghman's Ride Through Kent
1782	Washington College founded
1793	Chester Light Infantry Founded
1802	First Bridge across Chester River
1814	Kitty Knight saves a house
1814, August 31	Battle of Caulk's Field

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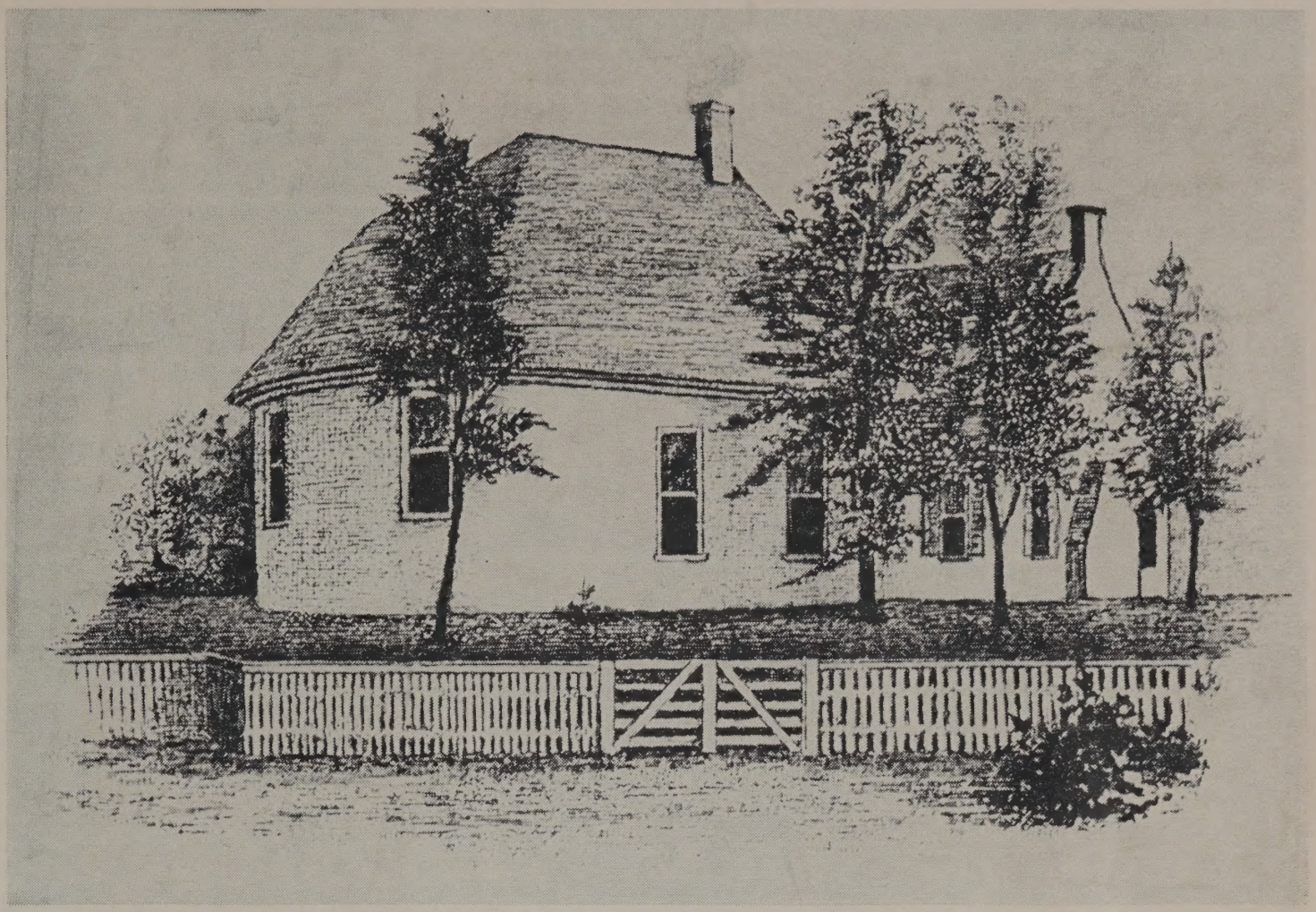


— Old Courthouse, reputedly built at site of Chester Town in 1698

In 1706 a Town was Born . . . .

Venerable Chestertown, replete with a glorious past, packed with historical significance, carries her two and a half centuries lightly as she celebrates the 250th anniversary of her founding. Hardly dented by the heavy hand of progress are her treasured traditions and quaint customs. Still holding out with admirable obstinacy are old landmarks in the form of clapboard and stone manor houses that have weathered three centuries, dignified Georgian mansions, and time-bleached brick parish houses. Mindful of her great past, she prefers to be known as an up-and-coming county capital and college town looking forward to the future.

Galore with history and rustic beauty is her county, tiny Kent, land of farm, orchard and waterfront. Contrasts abound in Kent's small territory—only 281 square miles anchored to Delaware on the east. Geographers define Kent as a peninsula, but as far as the rest of the State is concerned, Kent is an island, completely isolated from the State on three other sides by the Chesapeake on the west, the Sassafras River on the north and the Chester on the south and southeast. Kent is the smallest county on the Eastern Shore, yet has a magnificent 209-mile shoreline. Surveying this paradise is its county seat, lovely Chestertown, established on the Chester's banks in 1706. Yellowed documents, crackling with age, reveal a fascinating story of the colonists' search for a favorable townsite and their town's laborings as it grew to maturity.

Selection of a site was determined by the desire of the citizens to have their county seat easily accessible to persons having business with the courts and county offices, and by the importance of having it on a navigable stream, water being the principal means of transportation. The actual founding of the town was brought about by petitions submitted to the General Assembly by the citizens of Kent and other counties requesting that towns be laid out in their several sections. To illuminate the reasons for Chestertown's founding on its present site, it is necessary to delve into even earlier days, those of Kent County's origin.

Kent itself is rooted in the first stirrings of the colonies. When the expedition under Leonard Calvert landed at St. Mary's to take possession of and settle upon the territory granted by King Charles the First to Cecilius Calvert, Baron of Baltimore, the Isle of Kent was found occupied by William Claiborne as a trading post. Despite Claiborne's resistance, by 1637 Governor Calvert had to a degree established Lord Baltimore's authority over that island. Delegates from the freemen of Kent sat in the General Assembly during 1637, the year fixed by some writers as the date of Kent's formation into a county. To support that view they point out the appointment of John Langford as High Sheriff for Kent in that year, recognizing that the setting up of a Shrievalty usually indicated the existence of a county.

— *Chestertown's ancient Customs House before latest restoration which removed porch*

Others claim 1642 is the date of Kent's formation into a county, and present some solid evidence in support. On August 2, 1642, the Governor in His Lordship's name issued a commission appointing Richard Thompson and William Luddington commissioners of Kent, with all powers as by law of the Province belonged to the commissioners of a county. A clause in that commission ordered that: "Richard Thompson and William Luddington Commissioners of our Isle and County of Kent" were directed to administer the oath to Giles Brent. Also in 1642 the General Assembly passed an "Act For Judges" which set up an authority for "determining and correcting offenses." At any rate, in 1650 Governor Stone issued his writs to the Sheriff of Kent County directing him to summon the freemen of Kent to elect delegates or burgesses to represent them in the General Assembly. Thereafter Kent is usually referred to as Kent County, and sometimes as the Isle and County of Kent.

The territory constituting Kent at the time is somewhat vague. It appears to have included Kent Island, some part of the adjacent mainland, Eastern Neck and other land as far north as Worton Creek and as far east as Langford's Bay. The County's boundaries were clarified for the first time in an Act passed May 1695 which reads "From and after the 23rd day of April next following the passage of this Act, the Island of Kent shall be added to and made a part of Talbot County. That part of Talbot County lying on the North side of Corsica Creek and running up the main eastern branch thereof, and thence with a course drawn East to the outside of this Province, shall be the southerly bound of Kent County, and on the North by Cecil County." Simon Wilmer was authorized to see that the same should be surveyed and properly marked out.

New Yarmouth on Eastern Neck Island had been the site of the county court house for a number of years, but the division of the counties made it necessary to relocate the county seat at a more convenient spot for the citizenry. Accordingly the General Assembly in 1696 incorporated the Justices of Kent into a body politique and gave them authority to buy 3 acres of land and build a court house thereon, with the authority to levy on the inhabitants of the county for its cost. The land was bought "lying between the plantations of Isaac Caulke and Edward Fry" and a court house was built near the present Quaker Neck wharf on a Chester River tract known as "Utrick." An Act in 1707 took all land south of the Chester River, plus some from Talbot County, and set up the new Queen Anne's County; Kent's boundaries were fixed practically as they are today, with the Chester River as its southern border and the Sassafras the northern. This brief narrative of the shuffling of Kent's boundaries is given to show why the court house was moved to a new location, a move that gave birth to Chestertown.

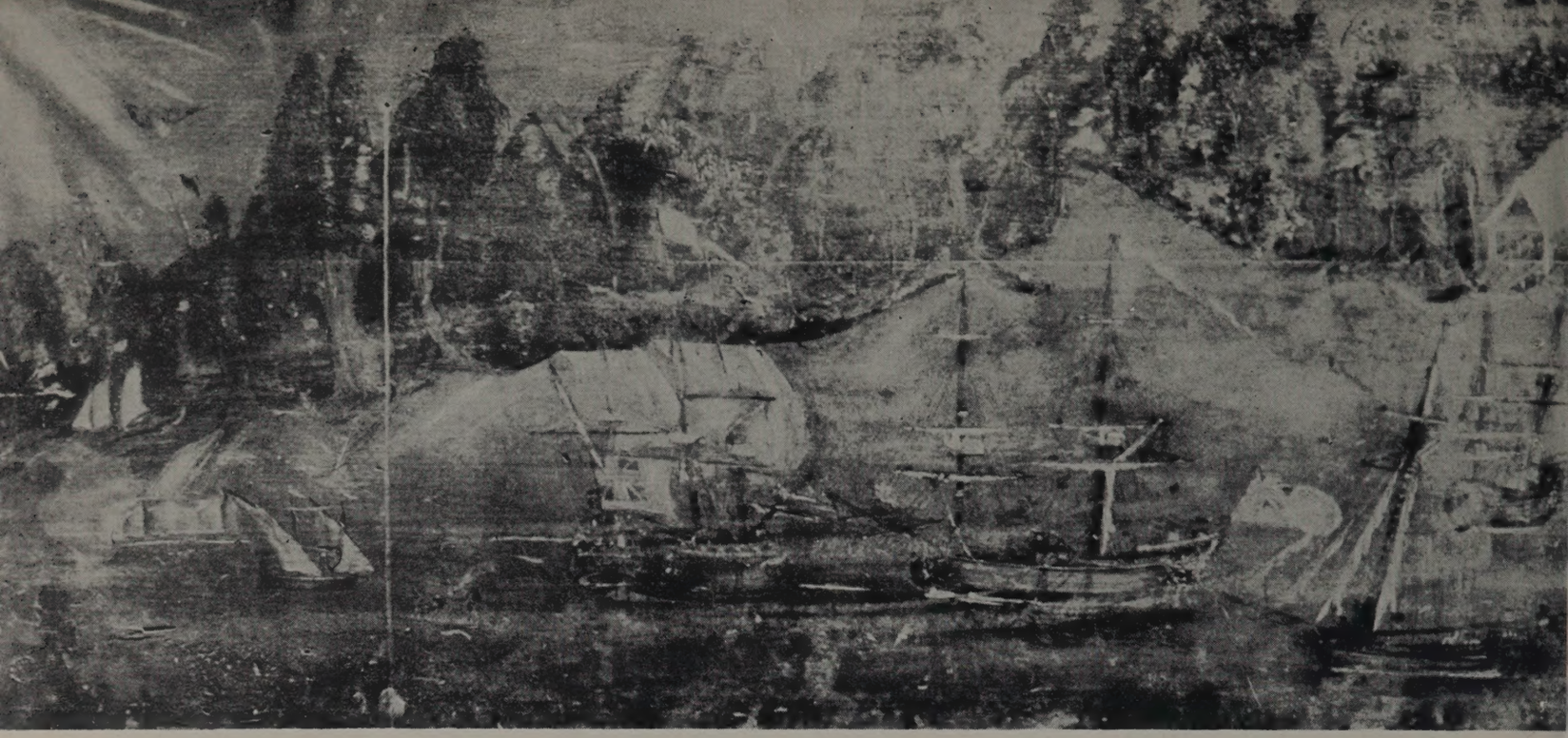
It was on April 17, 1706, that the General Assembly passed an "Act for the Advancement of Trade and Erecting Ports and Towns in the Province of Maryland". That Act directed the commissioners to lay out five towns in various parts of the Province. Col. Thomas Smyth, Elvas King, John Wells, William Frisby, William Harris, Edward Blay, William Potts, Thomas Ringgold, and Philip Hopkins were named

Commissioners for Kent and enjoined to execute their authority in purchasing land and to see that the town was surveyed and staked out into lots. They were directed to purchase 100 acres of land belonging to Thomas Joce, between the plantations of Simon Wilmer (from whom Chestertown's present mayor, Philip G. Wilmer, is directly descended) and Edward Walvin, and to build a court house thereon. The Act of 1706 went on to say: . . . "out of which the following shall be and by this Act are appointed and reputed to be Ports, that is to say, at Chester Town on Joce's land in Chester River . . ." For reasons now obscure, perhaps because no satisfactory arrangement for purchase could be negotiated with Thomas Joce, or it was decided that a more suitable location could be found, the Commissioners did not buy Joce's land, but entered into an agreement to purchase 100 acres from Simon Wilmer for the town site. Whatever the reasons, the town was actually laid out upon the Wilmer tract and the court house built upon the allotted ground. A supplemental Act in 1707 negated the earlier (1696) establishment of a town and court house in Quaker Neck; it also specified that "all towns, rivers, creeks and coves in Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne counties (except Kent Island) shall be deemed and taken to be members of the port of Chester Town in Chester River." Lots were being taken up in 1707 and 1708, transfers of lots being made in early 1708, the deeds reading "taken up by him at the first laying out of the town" and so recorded in the Land Record Book for Chestertown.

Growth was slow the first several years. One reason was, undoubtedly, the small number of people living in the entire county. The 1710 census showed the population of Kent as 974 men, 753 women, 547 children, and 479 negroes. A major factor in the slow growth was that the Province of Maryland was under a Royal Governor when the Acts of 1706 and 1707 were passed, and all acts had to have the final approval of their Majesties, William and Mary - **when those two acts were returned from England they were found to have been disallowed!**

The infant town was saved, however, when at the General Assembly in 1715, Andrew Hamilton, representing Kent and then a leading member of the Lower House, sponsored and pushed a bill providing that all persons who had taken up their lots under the acts should, notwithstanding their Majesties' disallowance, "have, hold and enjoy a good, sure and indefeazable estate of inheritance in fee simple of, in and to such lot . . . " The bill also provided that any ground assigned to the use of the community should remain in the community's ownership. As Lord Baltimore had by then recovered his authority over the Province, no difficulty was met in obtaining his approval.

With legal existence now cleared, the town and port began to grow rapidly and a surge of business and commercial expansion set in. Culture and the enjoyment of the arts became ascendant. An early chronicle noted that ". . . being a port of entry its foreign trade was extensive and remunerative. Large warehouses were built and commodious residences were erected by the wealthy. In 1752 it boasted a handsome Town Hall and convenient theatre, and was inferior to no provincial town in intellectual, culture and commercial influence." Mercantile and shipping interests had indeed firmed their positions along the water's edge in the period 1730-1760—many of their deeds read . . . "as far into the river as it is necessary to go to build a wharf." *— Continued on Page 43*



Reproduction of contemporary oil painting of New Yarmouth harbor, now in Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.

New Yarmouth

. . . . *town of a vanished era*

Destined to a short yet crowded life as the metropolis of Kent County years before the founding of Chestertown in 1706, the early town of New Yarmouth comprises a chapter, vivid and moving, in the chronicles of Maryland.

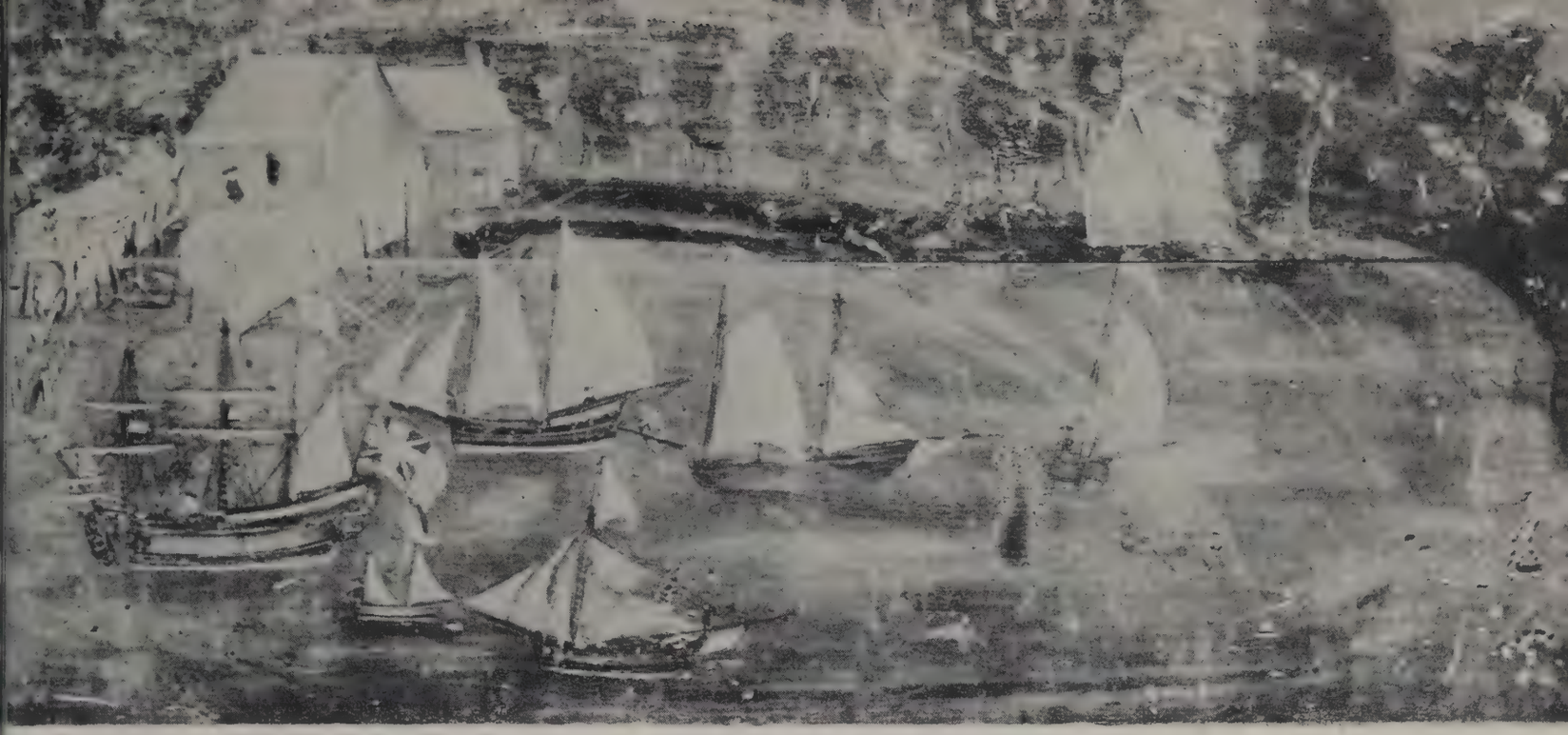
Buried now beneath the dust and obscurity of two centuries and more, New Yarmouth once flourished on a finger-shaped promontory extending into Gray's Inn Creek, a tributary of the Chester River. Its harbor was thronged with shipping and its shores teemed with shipbuilding yards. Not only as Kent County's first town, but as the first of its kind on the Eastern Shore, New Yarmouth had great significance. It was also one of the earliest of Maryland's towns. The capital of the Colony, St. Mary's City in Southern Maryland, was forty-one years of age when New Yarmouth took form. By an ironic twist of fate, both towns had perished before the turn of the eighteenth century: St. Mary's City in 1694 followed by New Yarmouth, three years later, in 1697.

New Yarmouth's beginnings may be traced to 1650 when Colonel Thomas Ringgold emigrated to the shores of Kent County from neighboring Kent Island. He was accompanied by his sons, John and Major James. Colonel Ringgold secured a patent to twelve hundred acres of land that stretched lazily from Gray's Inn Creek across Eastern Neck, a long peninsula terminating in an island, to the broad waters of the Chester River. Before he died, Colonel Ringgold bequeathed six hundred acres of "Huntingfield" to each of his two sons.

Major James Ringgold, co-heir of this rich estate, was dubbed "Lord of the Manor on Eastern Neck". A man of unflagging enthusiasm, he was long identified with Kent County politics. His fortunes were materially improved in 1674 by an order of Charles Calvert that directed the removal of the court sessions from Kent Island to Eastern Neck. The change of the court actually made possible the founding of New Yarmouth as the county seat. Further impetus was added in 1675 when Ringgold leased to Samuel Tovey one hundred acres of Huntingfield for the erection of a town. That tract, leased for eleven years for five shillings of "lawfull English money", stretched from Gray's Inn Creek across Eastern Neck to the Chester River. Ringgold renewed the lease in 1678, this time for nine hundred and ninety-nine years for ten thousand pounds of tobacco and cask. Although Tovey and his heirs were given the right to the land during this term, they were to acknowledge the fee simple title of Ringgold and his heirs in the property on payment of an annual sum of "one pepper corn at the feast of Saint Michael the Arch-Angel if the same shall be lawfully demanded."

No sooner was the land leased in 1675 to Tovey when all the basic elements of city planning were employed in laying out the town, then unnamed. Beginning October 4, 1675, Tovey was to have the right to settle inhabitants on the property and also to receive profits and rents as well as to issue rents.

PEOPLES BANK OF CHESTERTOWN, SPONSOR



At least eleven ships are visible in harbor with two more abuilding on shipways in center background.

"Gray's Inn Creeke at New Yarmouth" was officially nominated as a town and a port of entry in Kent County in an "Act for the Advancement of Trade" by the Provincial Council of the Colony in 1683. A commission was authorized to meet before March 25, 1684, to draw up plans for New Yarmouth. The county court had already, in 1678, levied fifteen thousand pounds of tobacco for land on which to build a court house and for the expense of erecting it in New Yarmouth. No funds were advanced to furnish the court house in a style befitting the justices until William Key, though little known, bequeathed the residue of his estate to Ringgold and Tovey for that purpose. The "House of Judicature" and the "Comon Goale" were located at the street side, south end of the corner lot, of East Street in New Yarmouth.

The first known session in the court house took place August 28, 1683. Court met again in September, 1684, and convened three times in 1686. In 1687, in accordance with the law of 1682 requiring towns to have a complete set of weights and scales, William Harris was picked by the court to be sent to England to buy the necessary instruments. On March 15, 1694, the court decided not to hold its sessions on the fourth Thursday of the month, but to adjourn until further notice; an action prompted by the "distemper", or epidemic, that terrorized New Yarmouth that winter and rendered the inhabitants incapable of attending court.

The rapid growth of commerce had resulted in the passage of another "Act for the Advancement of Trade" in November, 1683. This law designated New Yarmouth the port of entry for all vessels and ships trading in Kent County after August 8, 1685. Freight from all ships was to be unloaded at New Yarmouth where it was to be either sold or bartered. The town boasted a ferry service to Kent Island in those days. A grant of three thousand pounds of tobacco was appropriated to John Salisbury to operate the ferry in 1686. The boat was to ply between the island and the eastern part of the county; the ferryman, during court times, was required to be at New Yarmouth the middle of each month. The service must have proved of value, for the court renewed the subsidy in 1693, this time to Lewis Meredith.

Church going was a gala occasion of excitement and the display of finery. St. Peter's was the church that provided the excitement in New Yarmouth in 1693. Tradition says that the first house of worship was built in the neighborhood of the town in, or before 1680, some years before the Act of 1692 established parishes in the Colony. Local tradition goes further, asserting that a creek, almost in sight of New Yarmouth, called Church Creek, was the site of the earliest church in Kent County. When St. Peter's was going to ruin, it was decided to build another one on the more accessable north side of the Chester River at the head of Broad Nox Creek. Land bought from Michael Miller for two thousand pounds of tobacco formed the first St. Paul's Parish. The church, built by February 6, 1696, gave way to the present imposing structure, the second St. Paul's Parish, a name it bears proudly to this day.

In their more frivolous moments, the residents of the early town indulged in the typically English sport of horse-racing, some betting tobacco and pence and some loving the race for the spirit of it. This turf, in existence in 1686, enjoyed a reputation as the Yarmouth Race Ground.

In the days of fiendish tortures, the court house was not complete without a whipping post, the tangible symbol of punishment. The sheriff was ordered by the court, on June 26, 1695, to administer Joane Hanson six lashes "well laid on her bare back" at the whipping post.

— Continued on Page 43

. . . . like the Rock of Ages the town was . . . .

Built To Endure

Immediately upon passage of the Act of 1706 giving legal existence to the new Chester Town, the energetic citizens proceeded to plan their town. In dividing the tract into residential and commercial lots, they were bound by the specifications of the Act. Sufficient streets, alleys and lanes were to be laid out first, then free ground for court house, market place, church, and common. The remaining ground was to be divided into 100 lots of nearly equal size, numbered from 1 to 100 and marked with stakes fronting on the several streets. The lots were then to be open for choosing, the owner of the land to have the first choice of one lot and the remainder open to any citizen of Kent County. If after four months all lots were not taken, anyone might take up those left. The commissioners fixed the price to be paid for lots. It was originally specified that a house had to be built within twelve months, but due to a shortage of nails and building materials the time limit was later extended by legislation. A strand along the waterfront was not divided into lots at the time, as it was believed that merchants and shippers buying there would specify the size wanted. A Land Record Book was opened.

After it was learned that William and Mary of England had disallowed the Acts of 1706 and 1707, all lots taken up at the first laying out of the town appear to have reverted to the ownership of Simon Wilmer, the original owner of the land. At least, after 1710 all deeds for new lots purchased run from Mr. Wilmer to the purchaser. This procedure was continued after the Act of 1715 put the town back into legal existence, and also after a subsequent Act in 1730. The original Act had specified that a warehouse should be built by September 1, 1708; this had certainly not been done on February 17, 1708, as Captain John Darracott of the ship **Susanna** trading in Chester River complained to the Governor's Council that he was compelled to land his goods at the Port of Chester Town and leave them exposed to the weather. Col. Thomas Smyth, Kent's representative on the Council, replied that the town had until September 1, to get the warehouse built.

A re-survey of the town was called for in an Act of 1730. James Harris, Philip Kennard, George Wilson, Ebeneezer Blackistone, James Calder, John Gresham, and William Frisby were appointed commissioners for the project. Frisby had served in a like capacity in 1706. These men were directed to "survey and lay out the 100 acres of land formerly laid out for a town, on Chester River in Kent County by the name of Chester Town . . . commonly called Newtown, as agreeable as conveniently may be to the original plat or survey thereof when first laid out for a town." The commissioners were reminded that the original 1706 survey had not provided lots on the strand along the river front. They were directed to divide the 60-foot-wide strand into lots, respecting existing property lines so that current owners should not be damaged. The streets that formerly ran only to the water's edge were to be extended into the river. The once-neglected water strand was to become the hub of the town's very existence, as mariners and businessmen discovered that in Chester Town they had an ideally located port for trading.

In most of the towns designated as ports in the several acts for the advancement of trade, residences were established for the naval officers who entered and cleared all vessels. For some years, none was established in Chester Town because the Governor's Council thought the expense was not justified as it was such a short run from Annapolis. In 1752, however, the Rev. James Sterling of St. Paul's Parish was appointed collector of the district that included the Chester, Bohemia, Sassafras and Patapsco rivers. His successor, William Geddes, was appointed before January, 1766, by which time the Patapsco River seems to have been added to Annapolis district. Provincial duties collected by the naval officers were paid over to the treasurer of the shore to which they belonged, while proprietary duties were paid to Lord Baltimore's Agent and Receiver General. For a time Bedingfield Hands of Chestertown served as treasurer of the Eastern Shore.

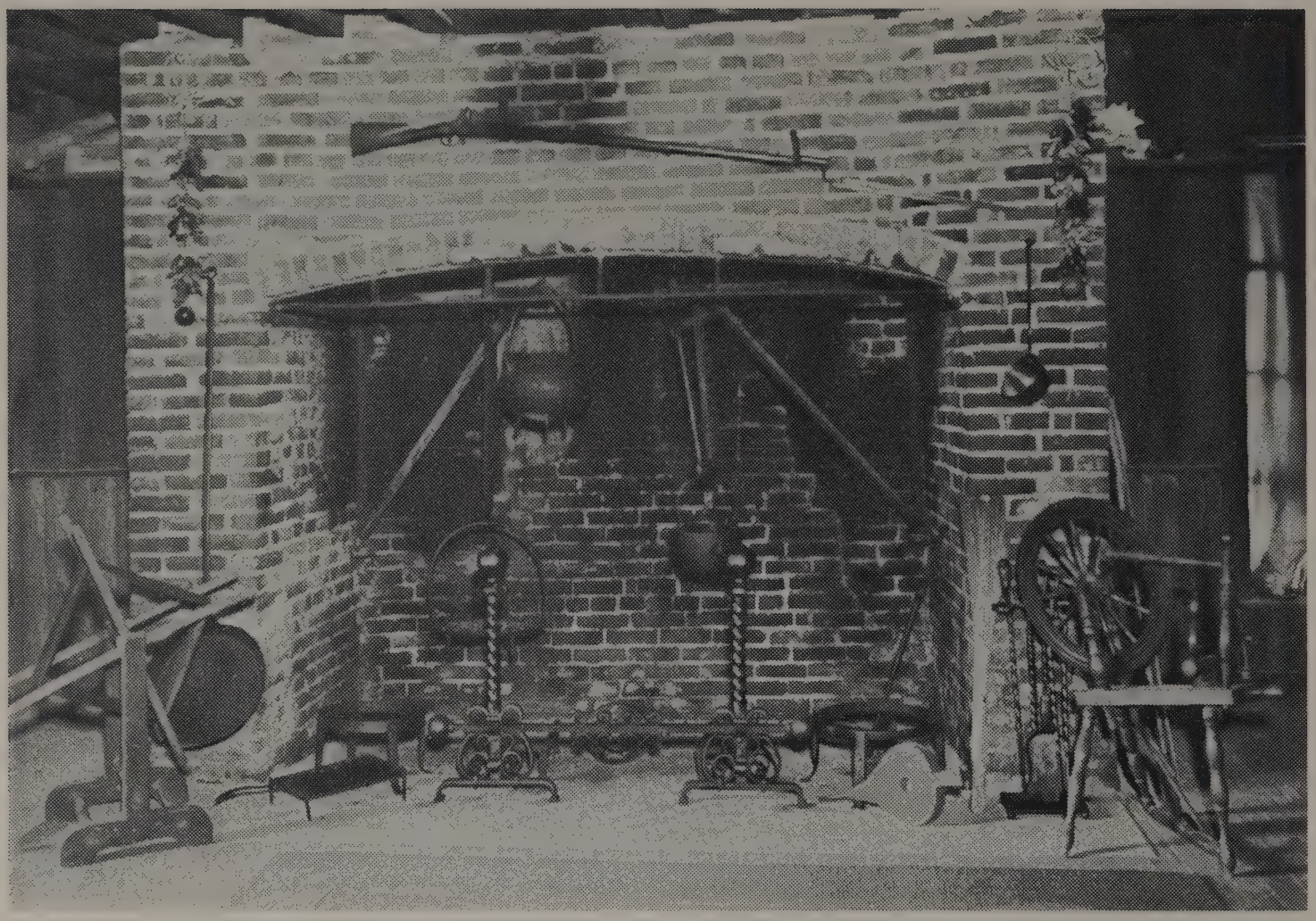
The Old Customs House, one of the town's legendary buildings, has been called by that name for generations. Simon Wilmer had retained that location for himself and had built a wharf and houses on it. The original structure supposedly built around 1720, was apparently smaller than the building now standing, there being evidence that additions were made from time to time. Beneath the building are vaulted cellars that saw early use both as warehouses and as dungeons for recalcitrant slaves.

VITA FOOD PRODUCTS, INC., CHESTERTOWN, SPONSOR

Lot No. 12 on High Street at the corner of Front Street, where now stands the red brick dwelling occupied for many years by the late Judge Joseph A. Wickes and other members of the Wickes family, was taken up on the original survey by Daniel Perkins, a stonecutter. In 1710 he sold it to Jonathan Page, a mariner, who for some years owned the entire frontage on High Street from Front to Queen, with a depth on Queen of 165 feet. In 1735 Page sold the property at the corner of High and Queen to John Buck, a mariner of Biddeford, England, describing it as "one half of Lot No. 34 on the plot of Chester Town, together with the brick tenements or messuages thereon, and being opposite Lot No. 26 on which James Moore, bricklayer, has recently built a house." The brick dwelling on the corner still stands, being now owned and occupied by Mrs. Burgess Schreiber. The 2 1-2 story brick dwelling facing Queen Street is also standing, now owned by the Simpers family. Adjoining No. 34 on Queen Street is Lot No. 25, originally bought by Thomas Piner and sold in 1709 to Michael Ricketts. Several brick dwellings now stand on that site, one occupied by Capt. H. H. Deringer, another by Mrs. H. G. Simpers and the third by Mrs. Wm. Dixon.

— Burrell House, High and Water Streets

Travellers passing through Chestertown were accustomed to lodging overnight in The White Swan Tavern, built on Lot No. 76 on High Street. George Washington was one of the distinguished guests there. The building is in use today, and is owned by Mr. Thomas W. Eliason. Another haven for the weary transient, as well as a gay center for local social life, was Worrell's Inn, a pretentious structure at the corner of Cannon and Princess Street. Its accommodations, including a large and elaborately paneled ballroom with a gallery at one end for the musicians. were the best the times had to offer. Its site first appears in the records in 1716, when Peregrine Brown conveyed it to John Moll, Innholder. In those days, the applicant for a license as "Innholder for the keeping of Ordinaries and Places of Entertainment" was required to have available 10 beds and stable room for 20 horses, which, when inns became more numerous, was reduced to 5 good beds and stable room for 10 horses in towns where court houses were located. Following John Moll's death in 1722, the property was transferred numerous times until Edward Worrell acquired it in 1770 and gave it the name by which it became best known.



— *Colonial fireplace in Customs House, as it looks today. It is on site near river*

One of the town's most essential and successful business enterprises was conducted on Princess Street (near the present railroad) opposite the shipyard of Moses Tenant of Philadelphia. Cables, cordages and white and tarred ropes were manufactured here by B. Hands and Co., a concern consisting of Charles L. Hynson, Bedingfield Hands, James Moore and Dr. William Murray. That section was called locally The Rope Walk. During the Revolutionary War, the town was a producer of shoes and arms, the association remaining today in the name of Cannon Street, derived from a foundry at the corner of Princess and Cannon Streets where cannon balls were manufactured for the colonists. On High Street, where once Henry Monk, an Innholder, was earlier established, arms for the Revolutionary War were turned out. The brick building now standing on the site was a factory used for the manufacture of cartridge boxes, gun slings, power horns and guns with "a 17-inch bayonet."

Legends are still spun about the "Ringgold" or "Pearce" dwelling at the corner of Front and Cannon Streets. This property first belonged to Nathaniel Hynson who in turn sold it to Dr. William Murray, son of a Scottish nobleman. Only one-half the original lot was involved in that transfer; Dr. Murray later bought the other half and laid out extensive gardens which he enclosed within a brick wall. In 1767 Thomas Ringgold bought the property for the sum of 800 pounds Sterling, at that time an immense price for real estate. Gay young British officers at one time maintained a club there. Today, after a succession of owners, the beautiful old landmark is the residence of the presidents of Washington College, and has had the name changed to "Hynson-Ringgold House." The home of Mrs. Wilber Ross Hubbard on the water front, and the beautifully landscaped gardens surrounding it, occupy the original water lots 16 and 17. Lot No. 17 once belonged to the Hands family and later to Thomas Smyth. No. 16 was originally in the hands of the Grangers of shipping fame (their advertisement appeared in the **Maryland Gazette** as early as 1729, suggesting that unemployed sailors could find work on their London-bound ships), but Thomas Smyth bought that property too and erected a large dwelling on it.

In 1755 war was declared against the French and their Indian allies, and Governor Sharpe called for volunteers. The Gazette of February 6, 1755, says: "At Chestertown several men enlisted before the drum was beat, and the officer, who wanted but thirty men, got his complement and marched with them. Such is the commendable spirit of that place." In September, 1756, a number of gentlemen of Chestertown fitted out a fine new ship called the "**Sharpe,**" after the Governor, and commanded by Capt. Edw. Scott. It carried 26 carriage guns and 20 swivels; 200 men manned her. This boat did valiant service against the French.

On January 27, 1806, "an act to appoint commissioners for the regulation and improvement of Chester Town, in Kent, and for other purposes," was passed. A meeting was held in the old courthouse in May, 1806, and F. A. Dinsmore, then clerk, fixed the bounds as follows: Easterly, by the lands of Miss Smith; northerly, by lands of Wm. H. Wilmer;

SILCO CUT PRICE STORES, INC., CHESTERTOWN, SPONSOR

westerly, by the poor house lands; southerly, by lands of Thomas Worrell and Robert Wright and Chester River.

Among the first clerks were William Lassell and David Arthur. In 1816 William Wheeler was bailiff, and in 1821 James Dawson was wood corder; in 1839 Thomas J. Carroll was market master; from 1856 to 1868 William Webb was bailiff and market master and court crier; in 1860 Edward Ryland was weigh master.

In 1752 Hallam and Henry performed in a theatre here the plays entitled "Richard III" and "The Beggar's Opera." Every fall and spring there were races in Chestertown, back of what is now College Heights, commencing about 1750. The Chestertown races were particularly celebrated, and on this course Maryland and Virginia often contended together, as also did the gentlemen breeders of Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties. On the 24th of November, 1766, for instance, a race was run here for a purse of 100 pistols (3.60) expressly offered by the gentlemen of the place, in order to bring together "the two most famous horses on the continent." These were Yorick, of Virginia, and Selim, of Maryland. Yorick had won several matches and Selim had never been beaten. The race was for 4 mile heats; a big crowd was present and Selim won. Races lasted a week, and closed with a ball and grand opera. Many ladies were present, while many fine old Virginia gentlemen would be present and bet their negroes on the result. Courts were adjourned and schools dismissed. Endurance, rather than speed, was the quality expected of the racers.

The postmaster of Chestertown in 1824 was Joseph ReDue, who was Sheriff in 1827, and Inspector of the Port of Chester until abolished by Congress in 1850. From 1826 to 1852 he was President of the Board of Town Commissioners. In 1870 the salary of the postmaster at Chestertown was $780; Kennedyville, $200; Still Pond, $125; Millington, $220; Rock Hall, $65, and Chesterville, $200. The mail route between Lankford and Chestertown was established in 1870. In February, 1899, a mail route was established between Price's Station and Chestertown, and an afternoon mail given to the citizens.

— The Reward, in Quaker Neck

The first horseless carriage (automobile) ever seen in Chestertown, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, arrived in Chestertown Tuesday, August 8, 1900. It came from Tolchester, driven by a Mr. Clark, and took just 50 minutes to make the run.

In 1826 we find the people advertising for a school-master and requiring that he must keep away from "tippling shops."

— Chestertown, as seen from Washington College Campus, in 1880, looking southward

The Port of Chester . . .

Commerce and trade of a maritime nature have added their important part to the colonial period of Chestertown. The port was slow in developing at the outset but once underway served as an integral part of the county's and town's history.

The port of Chester, an early name for Chestertown, found the going tough after being set up in 1706, languishing as if stricken with anemia until 1730. In that year it took a new lease on life when the legislature, despairing of the snail-like program, appointed a new commission to make a fresh start and to lay the port anew.

The action, coming at the moment it was badly needed, may have acted like a shot in the arm, for the local population began to climb during the year.

From 1730 until the outbreak of the Revolution the legislature took a special interest in the port. Three warehouses were erected, the last being completed in 1763, and two inspectors were maintained by the Provincial Government at an annual salary of 6,400 pounds of tobacco. In comparison, Annapolis, a much larger port, employed but one inspector. The "Custom House", now used as an apartment dwelling, was once a warehouse. It is interesting to note that in 1910 during the improvement and extension of the waterfront of "Widehall", one of the Eastern Shore's most delightful old mansions, two warehouses of unknown antiquity were torn down.

It is often said, if a persistent tradition is to be believed, that the wharves in Chestertown were paved with stones brought over from the Mother country by ships as ballast and disposed of at arrival to make room for cargo.

A painless but apparently effective way of repairing wharves resorted to by early Chestertownians was raising the necessary funds by lottery. One took place in the fall of 1773 to raise 500,5s. to repair a wharf and to build a market house.

Chestertown was for several years a member of the Patuxent Customs District which included Annapolis and Oxford in Talbot County but was made a separate district in 1742. In the ensuing years this separation created a turmoil in the office of the collectorship of customs and a controversy with the Patuxent Customs District. On September 28, 1772, a board of three commissioners of the customs

in Boston in a report to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, suggested the restricting of the District of Patuxent to "the Western side of the Chesapeake Bay," and "that the Port of Chester may be made to include all rivers on the Eastern side from the limits of the District of Pocomoke in Maryland Southward, including the river Choptank, to the limits of the Port of New Castle on the River Delaware to the Northward of the Province of Maryland, which division considering the situation of the Ports appears to us to be most natural and best calculated to prevent any further controversy or complaints, and if your Lordships are pleased to approve thereof we pray your warrants accordingly."

Reports of this time concerning the activity of the local port give a dismal account of the amount of use made made by incoming merchant ships. The annual average of ships clearing out of Chestertown was put down at about twenty in a report of 1770.

William Geddes, who served as customs collector after 1767, typifies the position and was described as "a man of abilities, and (who) is exact in Business of His Office." However, it was pointed out that the revenue collected was hardly enough to support Geddes and his family. It was not necessary for the collector to have a boat or launch to meet or board incoming vessels. This was because all ships entering the Chester River were inspected by officers stationed at Hail Point on tiny Eastern Neck Island overlooking the nearly mile-wide approaches to the river. The practice of "hailing" boats from this point explains once for all the pleasant name of Hail Point.

As part of the collector's duties, he had to quarantine ships with cases of contagious diseases on board, such as small-pox, for a reasonable length of time before permitting them to unload or load up with freight. Also he had to seize and report stolen ships.

The collector had his office in the Custom House on Water Street. The year 1694 is advanced as the date of the erection of the building, although marks indicate three different renovations during the eighteenth century. The structure, it appears, started life as a warehouse for the Ringgolds, the first owners, who were merchants of great wealth. Under the terrace were three vaults for imported goods, one of them evidently used as a dungeon for unruly slaves, as it had ventilation. Long enjoying wide currency was the belief that an underground tunnel connected the Custom House to the Ringgold House, today the residence of the presidents of Washington College, which was built by William Ringgold in 1736. When water pipes were being laid on Water Street in the 1930's, no trace of such a passage was found during the excavation, thus puncturing a romantic legend.

Colonel John Hanson, Judge Bedingfield Hands, Colonel Thomas Smyth, and Thomas and William Ringgold are names of very prominent merchants and shipowners in Chestertown during the early colonial period. Born in 1721, Thomas Ringgold earned enough wealth from shipping to rank as one of the richest men on the Eastern Shore if not in Maryland. He spent a small fortune in equipping his home, Ringgold House, with elaborate wainscoating and overmantel decorations made in England. Of this historic mansion, once dubbed the "Abbey", Katherine Scarborough, in her Homes of the Cavaliers, wrote, "The Abbey was the home of a coterie of light-hearted young Englishmen who took their duties at the port anything but seriously, this old house was one of the gayest places in Maryland . . . (before the Revolution)." This jibes with local tradition fond of saying the Abbey served as a club or meeting place for officers connected with the port.

Another surviving contemporary, "Widehall", was at various times owned by Colonel Thomas Smyth, the shipbuilder and shipowner, and Judge Bedingfield Hands, who operated a marine store, the first of its kind in Chestertown, at the rope walk on Princess Street (now South Queen Street) where cables, cordage and tarred ropes for ships and small vessels were manufactured and sold during and after 1748.

Charles Peale, headmaster of the Kent County Free School, supplied an interesting sidelight to the nautical life of the community by offering courses in the rudiments of navigation as well as the use of the globes at the school which, he boastingly declared, were regarded the largest and most accurate pair in America.

Today, instead of lamenting the loss of its importance as a port of entry, Chestertown is proud to have served as one of old Maryland's links with the outside world. A constant reminder, more effective than a monument of stone, is the ever-flowing Chester River. It is like a dowager who has had her day, but secretly prefers the quickening present to the unhurried past.

Among those who were in business on the river were:

John Kennard, merchant. Lot bought from Nicholas Nixon, blacksmith.

Maurice Lisle, merchant of Pennsylvania.

John Falconer, merchant of London, England.

John Tennant, mariner.

William Timbrill, trader, from the Barbadoes.

Alex McGahon, merchant of Chestertown.

William Hopkins, mariner of Biddeford, England.

John Brett, mariner of Norfolk, Va.

Thomas Garnett, tanner.

Daniel Dulaney, occupation not given.

Hugh Wallis, merchant of Chestertown.

Walter Dougherty, merchant of Chestertown.

Esau Watkins, blacksmith.

Harry Hollyday, mariner.

William Nicholson, merchant.

William Ringgold.

. . . . in daylight, undisguised, they dumped a cargo !

Chestertown Tea Party

Most of those familiar with the early history of America are aware of the Boston Tea Party of December 16, 1773 in which a band of Boston citizens, disguised as Indians and armed with tomahawks, threw the contents of 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor. This was an act of retaliation by the colonists against a tax placed on the sale of tea in the colonies.

Not to be outdone by our colonial brethren to to the north, Chestertown citizens of that era performed a similar feat in the spring of 1774. During daylight, undisguised, a group of angry colonist made an attack on the brigantine "**Geddes**", presumably owned by William Geddes, local customs collector. The ship was boarded and the boxes of tea were disposed of in a like manner as those in far off Boston.

A committee was formed on Friday, May 13th, for the purpose of defeating and fighting the enforcement of the tax and a mass meeting was called for the following week to "consider further steps."

Resolutions were adopted which had as their general stipulation the unconstitutionality of the tax act and the committee pledged itself not only to support the resolution but to condemn all "whoever. . . .willfully and knowingly sell or consume (tea)" as "inimical to the liberties of America."

FLOUR for Valley Forge and Washington's troops came from a mill on the White House Farm plot, main house of which is shown above. Built in 1720 by Thomas Perkins, it was his son, Isaac, who helped keep the flame of liberty lighted with flour ground from Kent County wheat. Now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pinder, White House Farm, an outstanding example of colonial architecture, will be open for the colonial tour on Tuesday, October 9th, 1956.

C. W. KIBLER & SONS, INC., CHESTERTOWN, SPONSOR

Education . . . 18TH CENTURY STYLE

Kent County was one of the early seats of education in the American colonies. The Kent Free School, later to become Washington College, was in service in the early 1700's. There were, too, as advertisements in the earliest papers reveal, many private schools and tutors.

Public education on somewhat the lines it is presently constituted, however, dates back only to 1827. Under date of April 27, 1827, **The Telegraph,** published in Chestertown, carried this account of the establishment of the Primary School System:

"PRIMARY SCHOOLS - We publish below the appointment of commissioners and Inspectors of Primary Schools, made on the 21st instant by the Levy Court of this county, in virtue of an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland passed at December session, 1825, and adopted by the people of this county at the last October election.

"The bill has now become the law of the land so far as Kent County is concerned—and we feel desirous that its expediency and feasibility should be fully and properly tested, and we have no doubt, from the known intelligence and respectability of the persons vested with the authority to commence its operations that we shall be gratified.

"The law authorizes the appointment of nine commissioners, and a number of persons, not exceeding eighteen, who, together with the commissioners, constitute a body called INSPECTORS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS—and although they appear in our paper as appointed solely for election districts, yet the authority of each inspector extends to every part of the County, and the Inspector of one district is as much bound to officiate in another district, as the one in which he may reside.

"We presume, that the reason why persons are appointed to live in the several districts is, because their knowledge of the geography of their section will enable the Inspectors to lay off the school district more methodically as well as advantageously.

"We do not despair of the success of the present system. The State fund of $1,000 will be an aid of the Institution, as also our proportion of the interest of 80 to $100,000, part of the State's claim against the general government for expenses incurred during the late war. With this pecuniary assistance, we are induced to conclude, that the taxes necessary to be laid in addition, will be much more inconsiderable than the aggregate amount now paid for the tuition of the juvenile part of society in this county.

"The cause of education is one of the most noble and praiseworthy that can actuate man. It is a cause essential to a Republican government, for it is a demonstrable truth that the more enlightened people become, the more enamoured are they of liberty and republicanism. It is this truth, indelibly impressed upon the minds of the kings and emperors of Europe, that prompts them to use their most assiduous exertions to prevent the diffusion of science and literature, and to perpetuate ignorance among their subjects, being well aware that the former is the best ailment of republics, while the latter is the only bulwark of tyranny and despotism.

"Why then not disseminate the benefits of education among all classes? The poor man has to fight for his country and his home whenever a hostile force invades our shores, and perhaps his life is sacrificed in her defense; is it not then reasonable and right, that his children should be instructed and educated at the expense of that country to whose defense he has so largely contributed? Let not

'Chill tenury repress their noble rage,
And freeze the genial current of the soul'.

"The present plan is surely a novel one in this state, but let it have a fair and impartial trial, and if it proves unwise or oppressive, let it be changed for another or abandoned."

Commissioners and Inspectors were appointed for one year from April 21, 1827:

Lower District

Commissioners - Wm. Crane, Joseph Wickes, 3rd, Simon Wickes.

Inspectors - Wm. Copper, J. S. Constable, John Eaves, Eli Plummer, Francis Lamb, Philip M. Reed.

Middle District

Commissioners - Thomas Gale, George Spry, Philip Brooks.

Inspectors - John Wroth, Robert Usilton, James Mansfield, John Hudson, Solomon Scott, Richard Ringgold.

Upper District

Commissioners - John Wallis, William Welch, Samuel R. Turner.

Inspectors - George C. Sanders, William Palmer, Geo. W. Wilson, J. M. Comegys, George McGinnis, Michael Smith.

But education a century earlier was a precarious profession, as will be seen by the excerpts below from letters of Charles Peale, a headmaster of the Kent Free School. Peale was the father of Charles Willson Peale, one of America's first artists to gain international renown and for a time the chief American portrait painter.

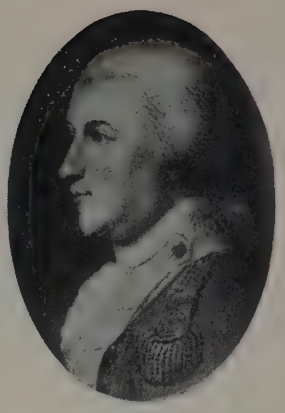
"Sir - You mention in yours (you) understand yr Debt to me is a town Talk—what foundn. you have for that I know not, as I am positive have not mentioned your Name any way relating to that matter to any Person these six months—unless in some Warmth one day last Week, on occasion of your Son's having given for a Reason for their Absence the Tuesday before, that they knew I was to go a foxhunting, I wou'd not on that account attend. On being told which I could not avoid saying in some Warmth, that when I was paid better for their Schooling, they might with more Propriety found Complainst agst me. . .

Jany. 30th, 1745 I am——Yrs. CP."

. . ."and if the war continues, and I can get no addition to my present income, we shall be greatly reduced indeed. For the fine belonging to this School wch depended chiefly on a duty on Negroes none being imported the war time is totally exhausted, and my small salary not now paid. Also the people in general here are so distressed by their losses & stagnation of trade, as not to be able to pay for the Education of their children so that I have but a

— Continued on Page 43

"fresh horse for Congress! . . . Cornwallis is taken!"



Still dramatic, although retold countless times, is the 100-mile horseback ride starting from Kent County of Lieutenant Colonel Tench Tilghman to notify Congress of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. Handsome, if not thoroughly urbane, and possessing all the qualities that make for a superior officer, he was Washington's confidential secretary and aide-de-camp, despite the fact that his father was a strong loyalist. Born in 1744 at "Fausley", his father's plantation in Talbot County, Tench was a direct descendant of Richard Tilghman, a surgeon who emigrated from the County of Kent, England, in 1662. His father, James, lived in Chestertown, then in Philadelphia, then returned to spend his last days here.

When asked by Washington to inform Congress, then sitting at Philadelphia, of the sensational news of the war's end, Tilghman was down with malaria but was stirred into accepting by the impact of the announcement. The trip, made in three laps, was wearisome in a day of slow transportation and dusty or mud-bogged rutted roads: first to Annapolis by an open boat from York Harbor, Virginia; then across the Chesapeake to the Kent County port of Rock Hall; and finally by horseback to the Quaker City from Rock Hall, the starting point of his famous ride. Fresh mounts were secured along the way by Tilghman with his throaty, excited cry: "Cornwallis is taken! A fresh horse for the Congress!"

He reached Philadelphia at midnight, terribly fatigued from the ordeal of his ride, and at once proceeded to the home of the president of the Congress. His loud, incessant rapping at the official's door nearly had him arrested as a disturber of the peace. With the news out, the whole city woke up, wild with joy that independence had become a reality after seven hard years of almost ceaseless fighting.

Tench Tilghman's Ride Through Kent

By The Rev. Dr. Oliver Huckel

The sword of Cornwallis was yielded in shame;
The twenty-eight regiments, called out by name,
Their colors surrendered. The whole British host
Marched out 'twixt the ranks of America's boast,
And laid down their muskets. Redcoat drummers with frown
Beat the old English air—"The World's Upside Down!"

And the great war was ended; the last battle fought,
And freedom was won, so long eagerly sought!
'Twas October nineteen, and the year eighty-one,
When at Yorktown full triumph crowned great Washington:
The vet'ran's bronzed check was wet with a tear,
But ne'er had his heart known dishonor or fear.

Who shall carry the message to Congress afar,
That Cornwallis is taken, and ended the war?
Who shall spread the glad tidings to hamlet and town
That freedom is won with an honored renown?
What trustiest courier, swiftest and strong,
Shall bear the glad news they have waited for long?

The General looked anxious and pondered awhile,
Then selected his man, and with confident smile
Spake, "Tilghman, to horse! And speed night and day!
Take this message to Congress without a delay!"
'Twas a sprightly young officer, long his close friend,
Who had served in the war from beginning to end.

Then swift to the stirrup Tilghman leaped at the word,
Snatching holster and pistols and girding his sword;
He stopped not a moment, but with joy on his face
He was off like the wind in the desperate race;
The dispatch buttoned tight, naught else would he heed,
But northward as fast as his good horse could speed.

He reached the York Ferry as dusk darkened the day
And chartered a sloop for quick course up the bay.
The white stars crept out as they drove swift along;
The fresh gale seemed singing a patriot song,
As it sped the glad news, like a swift-flying dart —
The glad news of victory thrilling his heart.

Now Chesapeake Bay can be mild as a lamb,
With softest of zephyrs and waves smooth and calm.
That night came a thunderstorm. Fierce lightnings crashed
And the sloop rocked and reared as the angry waves dashed;
For hours were they driven till the tempest was past,
And on far Tangier Shoals they had drifted at last.

A whole night had been lost. As the morning dawned gray,
They got off the shoals and went driving away
Up the Chesapeake under full canvas. They steered
For Annapolis shore. Oh, how slow time appeared!
Through the day, through the night, drive they swift as they can,
And at last they could hear the faint bells of St. Ann.

So they came to the wharf of Annapolis soon—
On Sunday as the worshipers came forth at noon;
They found all excitement, for the good Count de Grasse
Had writ Governor Lee what must sure come to pass;
So they shout with great joy when Tench Tilghman appears,
And the good news is told amid answering cheers.

Where the Peggy Stewart burned the people went wild;
They thronged around the State House, every man, woman, child;
The guns roared salute, great fires glory lent,
But Tilghman must haste on his voyage 'cross to Kent.
He cried: "Take the message to old Baltimore,
I must speed on my way through the far Eastern Shore!"

ELIASON MOTORS, INC., CHESTERTOWN - H. W. BUDDEMEIER CO., ADVERTISING, BALTIMORE, SPONSORS

Now again did the elements hinder his way,
For smooth as a mill pond was Chesapeake Bay;
No wind—not a breath—and they lay like a log
All night on the water becalmed in a fog;
The night and the water were calm as the morn,
But Tench Tilghman's hot heart with a tempest was torn.

At Rock Hall he landed; found horse; off they go
Like a well-chosen arrow let loose from the bow;
Through rich meadows they pass, over bridges they shoot,
By gardens and orchards hung heavy with fruit.
He rode 'cross the head of old Sassafras stream,
And on through the green hills as fleet as a dream.

More than once as he rode this peninsular way
His horse trembled and sank. Whether night, whether day,
He cried to some farmhouse: "Ho good folks, awaken!
A fresh horse for Congress! Cornwallis is taken!"
Lights flashed, quick feet echoed, a strong horse was given,
And Tilghman was off like a courier of Heaven.

"Hurrah!" cried the farmers from meadow and door,
And cheers rent the air at the good news he bore;
Wives and children rushed out as the horseman went by
And laughed with delight at his jubilant cry;
And bonfires were lit and church bells were heard
As the countryside roused into joy at his word.

'Twas dark when old Wilmington loomed like a dream,
And they swam through the shallows of Brandywine stream;
The ships on the Delaware plainly in sight,
But eerie and strange in the gathering night.
He galloped through Chester with rollicking song,
"God speed!" cried they all, as he thundered along.
Four days and four nights had he ruthlessly sped,
By horse, boat, and horse again, forging ahead;
Scarce stopped he to sleep, but drove on like blind fate;
Oft ate as he rode, for his news could not wait;
Tens of thousands were longing, as keen as could be,
For word of war ended and the Colonies free.

'Twas just after midnight, on a mare strong and fleet,
He rode swift over Schuylkill and down Market street.
Philadelphia slumbered beneath peaceful roofs,
The cobblestones echoed the beat of the hoofs;
Then a-sudden with one dreadful shudder and groan
His black steed fell dead—but Tilghman ran on!

"O where is the President, Thomas McKean?
Dispatches for Congress!" But no one was seen.
At last came a sleepy watch pointing the way,
And off Tilghman rushed like a roysterer gay.
He knocked and he shouted. The watch bade him cease
And threatened arrest for disturbing the peace.

But he shouted the louder: "Cornwallis is taken!"
And at last the deep-slumbering town did awaken;
Lights flashed from the windows and forth came a throng
To make the streets gay with their laughter and song;
And the bell in the State House was rung by glad hands,
Again sounding liberty all through the lands.

'Twas a night of rejoicing for the staid Quaker town,
A great night of hist'ry and of noble renown.
Cried the ancient night watch, with his lantern and bell:
"Cornwallis is taken—three o'clock and all's well!"
And couriers set off for New York and "down East,"
To tell the good news for the Thanksgiving feast.

Dawn came, and a dozen great cannon boomed forth
The jubilant news that had come to the North;
And Congress met early, the dispatches were read,
And orators praised both the living and dead;
And they crowded to church and laid by the sword
With hosannas from thousands of hearts to the Lord.

And gallant Tench Tilghman, the hero of all,
Was feted in homes and high honored in hall;
Congress voted him thanks, a great sword chased with gold,
And the noblest black steed with accoutrements bold;
And America ne'er in its patriot pride
Shall forget his good news and his glorious ride!

Kent's Naval Heroes...

Considering the influence of the surrounding waters upon Chestertown colonial life, it is not surprising that the little town produced two of the Revolutionary War's greatest naval heroes. Neighboring Eastern Neck Island contributed a third. These men were the intrepid brothers Nicholson, James and Samuel, both born in Chestertown, and Lambert Wickes.

James Nicholson was born in Chestertown in 1736. He had his first experience with naval warfare at the age of twenty-six when he sailed in the British fleet which captured Havana.

Early in the Revolution he offered his services to his native state, and was put in command of the **Defense**, chief vessel of the Maryland navy, with which he captured several prizes in the Chesapeake Bay.

The Virginia, Ill-Fated Frigate

On June 6, 1776, he was commissioned a captain in the Continental Navy and put in command of the frigate **Virginia** being built in Baltimore. Owing to effective British blockade work in the Chesapeake, Capt.Nicholson was not able to sail until March, 1778, when he left Annapolis for the West Indies. On the very next day out of port the ill-fated vessel went aground on a shoal and was captured by two British men-of-war. Nicholson was able to escape by boat with the ship's papers. A congressional investigation exonerated him of blame, but he did not get another ship until September, 1779, when he was given command of the frigate **Trumbull.**

In May, 1780, he engaged the British letter-of-marque **Watt,** 32 guns, in what was one of the most hotly contested engagements of the Revolution. Both ships withdrew badly damaged, and the Continental Board of Admiralty congratulated James on his gallantry. In 1781, temporarily in command of the privateer **Nesbit** and two other small vessels, he convoyed Lafayette's army from the head of the Elk to Annapolis. He was commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy, being the senior officer in charge from 1778 to the end of the War during which time he successfully held on to this rank against the strong claim of John Paul Jones. In 1801, Jefferson made him a commissioner of loans for New York, a post he filled until his death in 1804.

Samuel Nicholson, brother to James, was born in Chestertown in 1743. Being in England on business at the outbreak of the Revolution, he was commissioned by the Continental government to secure a ship either in France or England. He purchased the cutter **Dolphin,** and joined Captain Lambert Wickes, another famous Kent seafarer, in France. Wickes, with his **Reprisal,** Samuel Nicholson's **Dolphin** and **The Lexington** (Capt. Henry Johnson) under his command, sailed from France in 1777 and plundered British shipping heavily.

Nicholson remained in France until May 1778, when he sailed out of Nantes in the **Deane,** a 34-gun frigate, in which he captured numerous prizes in later cruises in the West Indies.

British Officers Captured

He cruised off the Atlantic coast of North America during the balance of the war, rendering valuable service to his country. Ranked high on his list of prizes were 250 captured British army and navy officers. These officers were a valuable prize indeed, since they could serve as hostages to insure humane treatment of American captives in British hands—the Americans, not having the status of belligerents when captured, being in danger of suffering the fate of rebels and pirates. The last prize taken during the Revolution, the **Jackel,** 20-guns, was captured by Samuel in 1782. **Old Ironsides** and the **Constellation** were both built under Samuel Nicholson's supervision. He also had the distinction of being John Paul Jones' lieutenant on the **Bon Homme Richard** in the decisive battle with the British **Serapis**. In 1801 he was made superintendent of the newly constructed naval yard at Charlestown, Mass., a post he held until his death in 1811, after having been a senior officer in the U. S. Navy since 1803.

Lambert Wickes was born on Eastern Neck Island, Kent County, in 1735.

Wickes was active in the merchant service as early as 1769, when he commanded vessels sailing out of Philadelphia and Chesapeake Bay ports.

In the autumn of 1774, as part owner of a ship, he had refused to carry tea from London to Maryland, and arriving in Annapolis almost simultaneously with the burning of the **Peggy Stewart,** he was greeted with popular acclaim. This incident brought him to the attention of Robert Morris, through whose influence he was put in command of the Continental armed ship **Reprisal.** On June 10, 1776, he was ordered by the Committee on Secret Correspondence to carry the American agent William Bingham to Martinique.

En voyage, he engaged in a skirmish with a British vessel off Cape May, during which his brother Richard, his third lieutenant, was killed. On the voyage he captured three valuable prizes, which he sent back to Philadelphia, and then reached Martinique successfully after defeating H. M. S. **Shark** near the harbor's mouth. He brought back stores of gunpowder, muskets and ammunition from Martinique.

Franklin Praises Wickes

Shortly after occurred what was probably the most memorable event of Wickes' naval career, when he carried Benjamin Franklin to France. His was the first American naval vessel and he was the first American naval officer to arrive in European waters after the Declaration of Independence. He won high praise from Franklin for the ability and courage he displayed on the voyage.

In May 1777, with three ships under his command, including one commanded by Samuel Nicholson, Wickes' squadron cruised off the west coast of Ireland and through the Irish Sea plundering English shipping. They captured eighteen prizes before returning to Saint-Malo in June, the effect of the raids on British shipping causing the British Ambassador to protest to the French government for harboring his squadron. After stalling as long as they could, the French ordered him to leave Saint-Malo on September 14, 1777. On the homeward voyage, caught in a severe storm off Newfoundland, his ship went down with all hands except the cook on Oct. 1, 1777. Thus perished one, who, in the words of Franklin, was a "gallant officer and a very worthy man."

THE D & R SUPPLY CO. - SEABOARD FINANCE CO., CHESTERTOWN, SPONSORS

Gory Tales of . . . .

Crime and Punishment

Some pages of Kent's past were gruesome and gory. A review of the sentences meted out by the old-time judiciary shows that the punishment didn't always fit the crime, and it ranged between harsh and lenient justice.

In 1661 a hog thief was ordered to "wear a piece of paper on his chest" in open court in lieu of a fine he could not pay, and he was also ordered to help repair a bridge. The sentence of convicted Kent countians to repair bridges was a favorite disciplinary pastime of the early courts. There is record of a suspected cattle rustler in 1657 who was forbidden to go into the woods except only in the company of "two honest naybours."

For committing perjury, in the late 1600's, a Kent County man was nailed by the ears to the pillory on New Yarmouth's village green; the nails were later slit to leave ugly scars and prior to release he was whipped on the back twenty times.

A little later, in the early 1700's, the penalty for hog-stealing became more severe. A first offense brought the punishment of standing in the pillory for four hours, followed by having the ears cropped. For the second offense the letter "H" was branded on the forehead with a red hot iron.

But nothing in recorded Kent County history compares with the barbarous punishment meted out to a woman convicted of assisting in a murder in Chestertown. While her two male accomplices died quickly on a gallows erected in the town, she was burned to death at a nearby stake.

Captain Thomas Bradnox, who died in Kent in 1661, furnished the region with notoriety of the most vicious type. Holding the positions of sheriff, militia captain and court justice, he was charged with crimes serious enough to have him jailed for life or hanged from the gallows. Ignorant, boorish, and browbeating bully, and unable to sign his name other than with a crude "X", he was continually in trouble for heavy drinking, embezzling public funds, disturbing the peace, assault, and for causing the death of two indentured white servants. Only his position as a multiple officer-holder prevented him from receiving more than light fines for his atrocious offenses.

Nauseating details of his cruelty to servants fill the court records of the period. The servants accused Bradnox and his wife—a carbon copy of her husband, loud, coarse and of loose morals—of beating them with sticks and tobacco stalks and in many instances inflicting serious injuries. Once in a fit of rage Bradnox felled a maid servant with "twenty-one blows of a great rope's end" because, as he blandly testified, "she did spoil me a batch of bread."

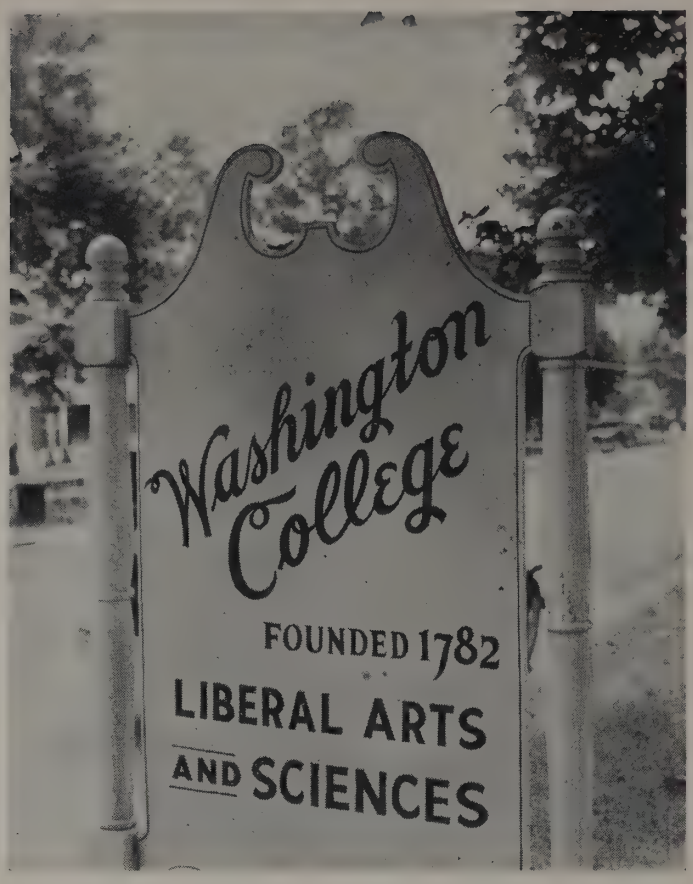
Bradnox was accused on another occasion of locking up a servant for several days without food and water, and threatening other servants with bodily harm if they tried to bring him food and water. With complete disregard for human life, Bradnox beat his servants regularly with heavy sticks, and there is a recorded instance where he beat a man with fifty strokes until the stick broke.

In spite of his exalted position, the brute Bradnox finally came before the bar of justice. In 1661 he was arrested for beating a servant to death and the Province at last had a chance to put the sadistic couple behind bars. The trial was evidently held at New Yarmouth, then the seat of county government. Mrs. Bradnox, though on trial herself for complicity in the atrocities, defended her husband as his "attorney in Court", which may make her Maryland's second woman lawyer after Kent Island's Margaret Trent.

At the time of Bradnox's arrest he was subjected to the ancient English procedure called the "Blood Test". In that day of rampant superstition, it was believed that the body of the slain person would bleed if touched by the real murderer. Brought face to face with the corpse of his servant, Bradnox defiantly shook it and thrust his thumb into it to show "how the flesh did dent." No blood appeared and this was reported to the jury as part of his defense by Mrs. Bradnox. However, Bradnox provided a bizarre ending to his case—he died in the midst of the trial and the case was dropped when the jury refused to indict his widow.

"... the trifling sum of 50 Guineas ... as an earnest of my wishes for the prosperity of the seminary."

— from letter of Gen. Geo. Washington
to the Rev. Dr. William Smith



Washington College on Chestertown's highest bluff is the tenth oldest institution of higher learning in America. Chartered by the General Assembly in 1782, Washington College boasts from the beginning the active interest and support of the leaders of the community, state, and nation.

Conditions and personalities were in favorable conjunction for the auspicious launching of the enterprise. The war had interrupted the progress of youth from the colonies to the universities at Oxford and Cambridge. The academic peace of certain of the then few colleges along the Atlantic seaboard had been disturbed by the passing to and fro of armed troops. The location of Chestertown recommended itself as distant from the center of the disturbance. Moreover, there was already flourishing in the town a most successful county school, endowed by the appropriation of 100 acres of land by the Assembly in 1723. The advantage offered by this act was not made use of by many of the counties, and in others, the schools did not succeed and the property reverted to other uses.

There is some evidence that the Kent County School was built upon a school established in Chestertown in 1707 or earlier, and supervised by the rector of St. Paul's Parish. At any rate, it had a long and honorable history even before the advent in 1780 of the Reverend William Smith, D. D., to whose vigor and indefatigable energy the college owes its inception.

A native of Scotland, he had graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 1747, and after a few years spent as a schoolmaster in Scotland had transferred his activities to America. A vigorous and controversial idealist, he was known throughout the colonies as an eloquent preacher and an extensive and enthusiastic writer.

In Philadelphia, Dr. Smith became closely associated with Benjamin Franklin, and found an important opportunity to practice his educational theories as first provost of the College of Philadelphia, (now the University of Pennsylvania) from 1754 until difficulties concerning the original charter forced his withdrawal in 1779.

That year he moved to Chestertown and became master of the Kent County School and rector of the Chester Parish.

It is stated in the Washington College charter that the foundation of the county schools had been with the intention later "as their future circumstances might permit, to engraft or raise, on the foundation of said schools, more extensive seminaries of learning, by erecting one or more colleges, or places of universal study, not only in the learned lauguages, but in philosophy, divinity, law, physics and other useful and ornamental arts and sciences."

In spite, therefore, of the depression occasioned by the years of war, Maryland was sympathetic to the foundation of its first college, and needed only the leadership of a man like Smith to bring it to pass.

Mention is made also in the preamble to the Washington College Charter that the Kent County School, "hath of late increased greatly . . . . there being now about one hundred and forty students and scholars in the said school, and the number expected soon to increase to at least two hundred."

The comparative importance of the undertaking in founding the first college in Maryland may be judged by the enrollment figures of some of the few colleges then existing in the colonies. Yale was the largest with about 200 in 1782; Harvard numbered 141; Dartmouth that year enrolled 81; Princeton had 40; Rutgers, 18 with an academy of 20. The College of Philadelphia had 31 in college, and 241 in the academy; Columbia (King's College) was closed 1776-84; Brown (the College of Rhode Island) suspended 1776-82; William and Mary has no record for 1782 and three students listed for 1783; while

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Washington and Lee (Liberty Hall Academy) did not grant its first degree until 1785, when 12 constituted the graduating class.

Washington College, which graduated four in 1783 and the same number in 1784, was, therefore, one of the larger colleges of the colonies, and by 1796, 37 students had received the bachelor of arts degree from the college.

With the express consent of General George Washington, the new college was called by his name. He gladly headed the list of subscribers to the new endowment with a gift of 50 guineas "as an earnest of my wishes for the prosperity of this seminary."

The years of Dr. Smith's presidency were filled with historic highlights. The first commencement, held on May 14, 1783, was in the best academic tradition of the day, with orations in the classical tongues, as well as in English, debates, and a great procession to the present campus, where the cornerstone was laid by Governor Paca, who received a salvo of 13 discharges of cannon to greet him.

In 1784, General Washington, who had accepted a place on the Board of Visitors and Governors, was honored by the students, who presented before him a performance of the tragedy of "Gustavus Vasa," the Swedish liberator, with a flowery epilogue, linking the names of Vasa and Washington, presumably to the great enthusiasm of the large crowd which is recorded as being present.

With his election as first President of the newly formed United States, General Washington retired from the Board of Visitors and Governors, and accepted the honorary degree of doctor of laws from Washington College. The original diploma of the degree is a treasured item in the manuscript division of the Library of Congress. It is dated June 24, 1789.

— The Rev. Dr. William Smith

Although this was the fourth honorary degree awarded General Washington, it was the first he received after becoming President. It was presented to him in New York, then the seat of Congress.

Judged by contemporary drawings which have been preserved, the original Washington College building was imposing and beautiful. It extended its length of 160 feet along the terrace on the upper campus, overlooking the river and town. The central portion was 100 feet deep, the two wings, 60 feet each. Its total destruction by fire in 1827 robbed the present generation of what must have been an excellent example of colonial collegiate architecture.

— First college building, William Smith Hall, located where three halls now stand on "The Hill"

— Complete College Campus, as it looked in Fall of 1880, looking northward

Immediately after the fire destruction of the main building, college classes were held in the large brick building on the waterfront, the old customs house. Later they were moved to a building located where the elementary school now stands. There they remained until the rebuilding of the college was begun with the erection of Middle Hall in 1844-45.

From the beginning of educational legislation in Maryland, it is evident that the state was planning an extensive system of public education. It is evident also that Washington was considered, from its original charter, as a state institution. The chartering of St. John's College at Annapolis in 1784 was looked upon as the establishing of the Western Shore branch of what, with Washington College, was to constitute the State University.

But beginning in 1805, state appropriations to both colleges declined, and at last ceased altogether, after a series of agreements, legislative enactments. and judicial decisions, the last arising out of litigation against the state instituted by St. John's.

These were dark days, that decade of struggle. At one time the faculty was reduced to one man—a president without assistants! That man, however, is the one to whom honor is due for the rehabilitation which the college achieved, and it is fitting that his name is inscribed on the cornerstone of Middle Hall — the oldest surviving memorial of the early days of the college.

This was Richard Williamson Ringgold, who assumed the leadership of the administration on March 19, 1832, and guided it for 22 years. Things were already beginning to stir when Mr. Ringgold came to the helm. Vacancies on the board were filled with the appointment of prominent men.

The outbreak of the Civil War found the college in a period of comparative prosperity, which was sadly undermined by the years of war and the conditions following thereafter. A low state had been reached by 1873 when the Board of Visitors and Governors hopefully appointed Professor William J. Rivers of the University of South Carolina as principal. Improvement followed in the instructional end, but enrollment increased very little. Scholarship students made up a large portion of the student body.

The State of Maryland, again recognizing its obligation to the historic Shore college, provided funds during the administration of Dr. James W. Cain (1903-1918) by which East, Middle, and West halls were prepared for use as men's dormitories only, and a large administration and classroom building, William Smith Hall, was erected. Destroyed by fire in 1916, it was immediately rebuilt. In 1912 there was provided also a commodious gymnasium, honoring the 16th president, Dr. James W. Cain, to replace the smaller frame one erected previously by the generous citizens of Chestertown. A modern central steam heating plant also was installed, and additional land was purchased to provide for Kibler Field, campus athletic area.

It was during Dr. Clarence P. Gould's administration that important legislation was adopted in 1922 by the General Assembly of Maryland which renewed even more strongly the bond between the college and the state. In that year the charter of 1782 was amended to provide for a new method of appointment of the Board of Visitors and Governors. By this change there were to be 25 members: twelve appointed by the governor of the state, twelve elected by the alumni, and the president of the college elected by these 24. (In 1953 the charter was amended to allow the Board itself to elect another 12 members.)

Enrollment during the administration of Dr. Paul E. Titsworth nearly trebled, the teaching staff was greatly strengthened, physical properties improved, and the college administration reorganized,

WM. N. COOPER & SON - COOPER - MERRICKEN FERTILIZER, INC., CHESTERTOWN, SPONSORS

— Modern View of College Campus, showing but portion of buildings now in use

especially in the management of its financial affairs. The state increased the annual appropriation for 1927-1928 to $60,000 and for the following year an additional $5,000 was added. The former home of the normal department was remodeled to become the college women's dormitory, Reid Hall.

Dr. Gilbert W. Mead's administration was marked by the expansion of the physical plant of the college, the ground work for much of which had been laid previously. Hodson Hall, a gift of the Colonel Clarence Hodson Trust, opened in October, 1936, housed the social facilities of the students, including a large game and recreation room, and the college dining hall. During the winter of 1939-1940, Dunning Hall and the George A. Bunting Library were opened, the gifts of Dr. H. A. B. Dunning and Dr. George A. Bunting, respectively.

In 1944, the Ringgold House, one of Maryland's most famous and beautiful mansions in Chestertown, was presented to the college for the president's house by a group of friends headed by Wilbur Ross Hubbard.

Washington College's 22nd president, Dr. Daniel Zachary Gibson, was inaugurated in 1950. Under Dr. Gibson's energetic and imaginative leadership the college has made many strides that have brought its outstanding accomplishments once again to the American fore.

Somerset House, principal men's dormitory, was opened in 1950, and Minta Martin Hall for women was dedicated in 1955. Hodson Hall was enlarged to provide increased dining and recreational facilities.

This month, the Frank Russell Gymnasium for men will be dedicated. A new wing is being added to Somerset House, and soon reconstruction work will begin on old Middle and East Halls.

This year the student body numbers 480, representing 14 states and the District of Columbia, also 3 foreign countries. The college has a distinguished teaching faculty of 40 and an administrative staff numbering 22.

If George Washington were able to be present next year as Washington College celebrates the 175th anniversary of the granting of its charter, he would be assured that the Author of the Universe has indeed smiled upon the institution and has certainly made her an "extensive blessing to this country."

— Modern Student Group on Campus

The CHESTERT

presented by

Chestertown's 250th Anniversary Incorporated

a JOHN B. ROGERS production, directed by Raleigh Tozer

(Complete cast and sponsors listed on pages 36 - 37 - 38 - 39)

Scene 1 — Prologue

A brilliant scene in which the Celebration Queen, "Miss Kent County", welcomes visitors from every corner of the nation. Surrounded by beautiful young ladies of her court, maids of honor, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other young people groups, she is feted each night in a ceremony of medieval pageantry.

Scene 2 — Captain John Smith

It didn't just start 250 years ago. Where today, gracious homes, prosperous farms and the buildings of business and industry cover our beautiful land, there once roamed American Indians. On an exploratory trip in 1608, Captain John Smith and party were befriended by the redmen and taken to a village of the Nanticokes where gifts were exchanged, a feast enjoyed, a ceremonial of friendship performed, and Indian maidens danced to entertain.

Scene 3 — New Yarmouth Court

As the settlement started to grow, a very evil and despotic man became Sheriff, Militia Captain and County Commissioner. Captain Thomas Bradnox was brought to trial for murder with his wife acting as defense attorney. Captain Bradnox managed to defeat justice by dying before almost certain conviction.

Scene 4 — "New Town" - Chestertown's Founding

Most of the early settlers arrived in slow moving boats from across the bay and up the Chester River. These hardy ancestors built "New Town" and laid out lots and streets much as we know many of them today.

Scene 5 — Readin', 'Riting and 'Rithmetic

Perhaps the greatest single contribution to the growth of Chestertown was the establishment of the Free School in 1723. Many distinguished men were a part of this school which developed into Washington College.

Scene 6 — Freedom's Frontier

The yoke of foreign control became oppressing and a new spirit of independence surged through the Colonies. This spirit is typified as the "Spirit of '76".

Scene 7 — The Chestertown Tea Party

Supporting the stand of the Boston colonists, the men of Chestertown held a "tea party" of their own. It, however, was in broad daylight and with no disguise of the participants. Perhaps more daring and heroic because of their boldness.

Scene 8 — The Chestertown Paul Revere

Lt. Col. Tench Tilghman landed at Rock Hall and rode 100 miles to Philadelphia, carrying the news of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. The news was greeted with cheers all along his route, and celebrations were held. The bitter struggle was over and a new republic born.

Scene 9 — General Washington Visits Chestertown

General Washington made seven known visits to Chestertown; each an eagerly awaited event to the Kent County populace. General Washington gave his name and support to Chestertown's college, and accepted a position on the Board of Visitors and Governors.

Scene 10 — Remember the Sabbath

When the first settlers came, they brought not only determination and courage but another priceless gift . . . their Faith in God. The State established the Maryland Act of Religious Toleration, which served as a guide for Kent County's acceptance of all faiths and creeds. Here, too, the Protestant Episcopal Church got its name, separating it from the Church of England.

Scene 11 — The Legend of Kitty Knight

The defiance of this little lady stands as an example of the courage which we so proudly hail on this, the 250th Anniversary of Chestertown.

GREAT OAK LODGE, F. C. RUSSELL, SPONSOR

OWN STORY....

Scene 12 — The Battle of Caulk's Field

Memorable for the death of Captain Sir Peter Parker, the Battle of Caulk's Field proved an example of determination as a superior British force was contained by a numerically out-manned force of Maryland Militia; a true picture of the spirit that is America.

Scene 13 — Plantation Days

Strife over, the colonists settled into a period of peace and productivity, characterized by this pastoral scene of plantation days, highlighted by the sprightly Virginia Reel.

Scene 14 — The Frazier Incident

The impact of a devastating War was at hand. Maryland as a border State, aligned itself with the North. Some, however, remained sympathetic to the Confederacy, causing much bitter feeling and some high-handed tactics on the part of the Union, known as the "Frazier Incident".

Scene 15 — The New Birth of Freedom

Under the creed of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, wounds were healed, and once more this great nation rose from devastation, solidly united.

Scene 16 — Here Comes the Steamboat

The steamboat has long since passed from the Chester River scene, but the nostalgia of steamboat days is ever present. Crowds always gathered as the steamboats came around the bend and tied up at Chestertown.

Scene 17 — The Tolchester Fair

It was the era of the "Bicycle Built For Two," "Leg o' Mutton Sleeves," "Empress Eugenie Hats", and wasp-like waists. Here we meet at the Fair, for band concerts, a Fireman's Parade, the Can-Can and a "bathing beauty" contest!

Scene 18 — The Great Fire

The year was 1910. On a peaceful September afternoon the cry of "Fire" was heard. Before the gallant men could control the flames, most of Cross Street and High Street was burning. Help came all the way from Wilmington, but too late. At dawn, twenty business houses and six homes lay in smoldering ruins.

Scene 19 — World War I

This scene is dedicated to those men of Kent County who lay "between the crosses, row on row".

Scene 20 —The Roaring Twenties

1927 . . prosperity abounded . . real estate values soared . . . it was the era of flappers, bobbed hair, bath-tub gin, but most of all it was the era of the Charleston.

Scene 21 — World War II

In this scene the local National Guard unit will recreate its part of the momentous battle for Saint Lo, which brought lasting fame to the courageous men of Kent County as they once more lay down the tools of peace to defend our Freedom. The men of Company G, 115th Infantry Regiment, Maryland National Guard, will give a realistic re-enactment of the hedge-hopping battle on the Normandy peninsula which preceded the break-through at St. Lo and the subsequent rout of Hitler's wermacht.

Scene 22 — The Atomic Age

Now we have entered an era known as the Atomic Age. Today we are striving to use atomic power for peaceful progress. Will it be the beginning of a new advance in civilization, or the destructive end?

Scene 23 — A Salute To Youth

Proudly we have recalled the Past. Now we salute Kent County Youth. Those upon whose shoulders will soon fall the burden of carrying our tradition and might into the future.

Scene 24 — The Grand Finale

There are no bounds or limits to the frontiers of our Freedom. We have built our schools, churches, hospitals, libraries and laboratories. Ahead lie new boundaries, widening and expanding. Here we go forward after 250 glorious years!

0143591

The Churches Flourished . . .

. . . . . in colonial Kent religion tempered a harsh existence, and produced men of stout fibre

— Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church

Religion is woven securely into the fabric of Chestertown and Kent County history. The Church primary basis for a sound society, provided the area a firm foundation for its future. Several local religious developments are especially worthy of scrutiny. The Protestant Episcopal Church originated in Emmanuel Church in Chestertown; the most ancient church in the area had its roots in the misty beginnings of the colony. Still Pond Church is the oldest continuous preaching place of Methodism on the Eastern Shore; in 1780 the Methodists in Chestertown were holding services in a building on Princess Street.

In November, 1780, at a conference of clergy and laymen in Chestertown, it was moved "that the Church of England, as heretofore known in the province, be now called the Protestant Episcopal Church." The name made its way throughout the Episcopal Church. The scene of the historic meeting was in the church today known as Emmanuel Church. The present building is an original one that was completed in 1772, plus later additions.

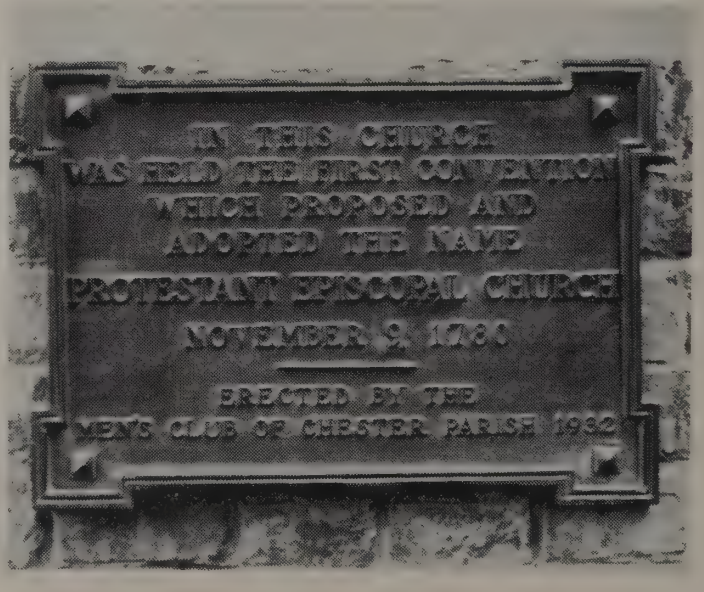
Chester Parish Is Formed

Emmanuel Church's history begins with the Act of the Maryland Assembly of 1765, which formed Chester Parish from the former parishes of St. Paul's and Shrewsbury. The freeholders of the new parish were invited to meet at I. U. Crossroads (near Worton) and "make choice of six vestrymen and two church wardens, to serve as vestry of said parish for the ensuing year." Accordingly there were elected vestrymen Aaron Alford, MacCall Medford, Joseph Rasin, Thomas Perkins, St. Ledger Everett and William Ringgold, and wardens Robert Peacock and William Cowardon. They made immediate plans to build a church at I. U. and to enlarge the "Chapel of Ease" in Chestertown. The I. U. Church was completed in 1768, but instead of enlarging the Chapel of Ease, it was decided to erect a new building.

Curiously enough, in the early days of the parish, neither the mother church nor the one at Chestertown appear to have had names, being called simply "I. U." and "Chapel of Ease." Lost in conflicting legend is the origin of the name "I. U." for the church near Worton. The one-time Chester Parish itself later was divided in 1863, the northern half being assigned to I. U. as an independent parish, the other remaining with Emmanuel.

Clergymen Were Scarce

As was often the case with early churches, it was extremely difficult to find clergymen. In 1779 the vestrymen of Chester Parish engaged the Reverend William Keene to officiate for one year at a salary of "800 bushels of good clean wheat." Perhaps difficulty was experienced in raising that amount, at any rate, in 1780 the Rev. Dr. William Smith of Washington College fame was engaged as rector at



FOX'S FIVE CENT TO FIVE DOLLAR STORE - J. WILLIS WELLS, FUNERAL DIRECTOR, CHESTERTOWN, SPONSORS

a salary of 600 bushels of wheat. It was Dr. Smith who called the 1780 meeting that resulted in the new name for the church. Indeed, he is reputed to have been the author of it. He was later elected first Bishop of Maryland, though he was never consecrated. Another rector who served there, and was later consecrated Bishop of Maryland, was Bishop William M. Stone. The Reverend William H. Wilmer, who later helped found Virginia Theological Seminary, also served there. The first rectors were the Rev. Matthais Harris, 1766-1769; the Rev. Philip Hughes, 1769-1772; and the Rev. John Patterson, 1773-1775.

Shrouded in mystery are the beginnings of St. Paul's Parish, the oldest church continuously in use in the area. As noted in the story of New Yarmouth in preceding pages, the original church was probably located on Eastern Neck Island; called St. Peter's then, the name was changed around 1682 to St. Paul's. Actual historical records begin in 1693, when his Majesty's Court of the Colony ordered that "December 19th of that year be appointed for the election of Vestrymen at the town of New Yarmouth." Earlier that year, it had been proposed to erect a building at Broad Nox Creek on a tract of land belonging to Michael Miller known as "Arcadia." Records indicate that in 1728, on the same site, the present church was built during the rectorship of the Rev. Alex Williamson. In 1766 the Vestry House was erected within the churchyard; it is in perfect preservation, one of only two in existence, the other being in St. George's Parish in Harford County.

Among early rectors appear the names of Mr. Lawrence Vanderbush and Mr. Stephen Bordley; also, the Rev. Dr. William Smith, the Rev. Simon Wilmer, and the Rev. William H. Wilmer. Early vestrymen were Thomas Smyth, William Frisby, Hans Hanson, Charles Tilden, Michael Miller and Simon Wilmer.

The **Journals** of the Rev. Asbury (first Bishop of the Methodist Church) record his preaching at the farm of John Randel at Still Pond in 1772 and 1773. That church has since had an unbroken record as a Methodist preaching place on the Eastern Shore.

— Old St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church

At the First Methodist Conference in Philadelphia (1773), Maryland far outranked the other colonies in membership. Methodism had made its appearance here in the early 1700's; the decline of the Church of England around the time of the Revolutionary War gave Wesley's followers favorable ground for further building. The word was spread at first by preaching, holding prayer meetings and class meetings in private homes. Eventually the adherents saw their way clear to build a church; records are sketchy, but they indicate that the Still Pond Church was completed between 1773 and 1788, on the same land where Rev. Asbury had preached before. The present structure was completed in 1853.

In Chestertown, a land record dated May 5, 1780, shows: "A new house adjoining Chester Town on Princess Street, built by Edward Worrell and John Lorain for use of a distillery," was sold to Charles Hynson, Jr., Edward Gibbs, William Collins, Carville Hynson, Benjamin Andrews, John Lorain, James Anderson, Jr., Richard Gould, and Emmanuel Kent, trustees for use of people called Methodists, where would be preached "no other doctrine than is contained in John Wesley's notes on the New Testament and four volumes of sermons published by him." The tavern mentioned continued to operate; known as Worrell's, it was a favorite gathering place for local gentlemen, as well as for travelers, including George Washington. The "converted" distillery also continued to operate; Bishop Asbury held a conference of seventy-eight ministers there in 1789. At length a church was built; completed in 1803, it was the first Methodist Church in Chestertown. That building stands today. Located on the west end of the town park, it is used for office purposes by the telephone company.

Origin Of Methodist Protestant

Some time between 1803 and 1827 there developed a difference of opinion as to the way the Methodist Church should be run; some felt there should be "equal representation", that the delegate to the an-

— Continued on Page 38

Freedom for the Printed Word!

In colonial days, the only contacts with the outside world were the sea captains and the sailors who became animated newspapers when their ships docked in Kent County ports, although accuracy of reporting was almost unheard of. After the seventeenth century, the weekly **Maryland Gazette,** published in Annapolis, ranked second to the dogeared family Bible, eagerly read and reread to the last period. Local news and gossip were relayed by mouth, usually becoming distorted or colored after a dozen rounds. Finally, in 1793, the county's first newspaper made its debut in Chestertown ambitiously as the **Apollo;** or **Chestertown Spy**, continuing under the bold label until July 26 of the year when it appeared under the conventional name of **Chestertown Gazette.** A bloodhound for foreign news, it reported the trial and death of "Louis Capet" (the beheaded French king) and of the war between England and France. One edition darkly hinted that Washington College had "royalists" on its faculty. Notices of escaped slaves vied with the news for attention. (One Negro woman was simply described: "Being very worthless it has been absolutely necessary to chastise her. The marks of cowskin may be seen on her back.") For more than fifty years Chestertown had three competing weeklies, **The Chestertown Transcript** (founded in 1862) which merged with the older **Kent News** (founded in 1823) in 1946 to become the **Kent County News** and the younger **Enterprise,** established in 1893 and now ceased publishing.

One of the particular treasures of the Maryland Historical Society's collection of Marylandiana is a small volume constituting the bound life of **The Apollo;** or **Chestertown Spy,** copies of which are among the great rarities of American publishing. The Society's file, although the most complete extant, has unfilled gaps. The New York Historical Society has a lone copy, as does the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Massachusetts, and Harvard University.

John Peter Zenger, the New York printer whose trial for seditious libel in 1734 established in the Colonies the principle of freedom of the press, got his printing start in Maryland. During the period that he lived in Maryland, Zenger was employed to print the laws of the Province at three successive sessions of the Assembly. Unsolved riddles are the location of his press and specimens of its production.

Zenger had been apprenticed to the New York printer, William Bradford, who in later years was to become his relentless political adversary. It was probably Bradford who suggested that he seek a living in Maryland. In the April 1720 session of Assembly,

> "The Petition on John Peter Zenger praying that he may have the Liberty of Printing the Laws for the Severall Countys the Provinciall Court and Upper and Lower house of Assembly was read and
> Resolved that the Petitioner have the Liberty of Printing the Laws . . . . for which the Severall Counties and Publick shall pay Seven hundred pounds of Tobacco . . . ."

Well satisfied with his prospects in Maryland, Zenger applied for citizenship in October 1720. In response to his petition there was passed "An Act for the naturalization of John Peter Zenger of Kent County Printer & his Children." In the title of this act is contained the only existing reference to his place of residence in Maryland, and on the evidence of this description it has been assumed that at his first coming to the Colony he set up his press in Kent near Chestertown. Records of the county court or of the Provincial Land Office give no indication that he took up land anywhere in the Province. It seems unreasonable that he should have established himself across the Chesapeake Bay many miles from Annapolis where most of Maryland's printing business was conducted. However, there is no evidence whatever that he settled in Annapolis. After a Maryland residence of less than two years, he was back in New York in partnership with William Bradford, and his later career became well documented.

DON T. FALLS, JR., SALES AND SERVICE - CHESTERTOWN SHORGAS CO., CHESTERTOWN, SPONSORS

Plantation Life . . . .

There was a fine flavor of hospitality about plantation life in Maryland before the Civil War, which lingered until late in the 18th century. Sugar, fish, ale, whisky, wines and other articles required to stock the larder were purchased by the barrel. Even a planter of comparatively modest means dealt with wholesale grocers in Baltimore. Everything was provided on a lavish scale and the storeroom of a farmhouse when full would have provisioned almost a regiment of troops. The lady of the house reigned supreme over this realm. It was she who superintended the education of the female slaves, training them when young to be skillful cooks, housemaids, seamstresses or dairymaids.

The duties of the plantation mistress did not cease at the kitchen's threshold. She paid daily visits of inspection to the poultry yard and the dairy. The latter was especially important, as the most watchful surveillance was needed to keep up the proper standard of that golden, clover-scented butter for which Maryland farms were famous. Take a glimpse at a dairy noted for the superiority of its products. It was a small brick house, situated in the bed of a tiny stream which was divided by a dam and forced through channels along each side of the dairy. In front of the building was an area paved with brick, surrounded by a wall built against the side of a gentle elevation which in spring and summer was fragrant with mint. In one corner was a little spring of crystal water, also walled around. In this area on certain mornings could be seen old Sarah, an enormous colored woman, dozing in the warm sunshine as she mechanically drew up and down the rod of the old-fashioned churn. When the butter had been churned and "worked", Sarah swiftly and skillfully divided it into equal portions. These received the impression of the farm print, a sheaf of ripened wheat with the name of the place beneath. Everything was done with the utmost cleanliness and the constantly running stream of crystal water kept the atmosphere of the dairy pure and sweet.

It must be confessed that the meals were rather heavy and the variety sometimes bewildering. An ordinary breakfast consisted of "Bachelor's pone"—a very rich species of corn bread—biscuits, buttered or unbuttered light bread, meat and fish or oysters, eggs in many styles, and, in summer, fruit. Dinner, the noon meal, was much more elaborate, and supper was of a character to terrify a dyspeptic. It began with a "relish" of chipped ham, dried beef, tongue or herring. There was nearly always hot wheat bread, waffles, rolls or biscuits, and inevitably some kind of hot corn bread. The latter alternated between "pone", "Johnny-cake", and "Slappers." Preserves or fruit and cake completed the array.

One of the points on which a hostess prided herself was the appearance of the table. When a guest was expected a servant girl was set to work immediately after dinner with beeswax and cork to polish the mahogany until it shone like a mirror. Then it was laden with the finest china and the most handsome silver the establishment possessed. Nearly always large candelabra, glowing softly with candles, were placed at either end of the board, blending with the glittering plate and china in a dazzling beautiful display.

Social interccurse in the neighborhood was free and unrestrained. When persons called it was generally understood they were to remain to dinner or to supper. They sometimes arrived at delightfully inconvenient hours, but nobody paid much attention to that. They were invited in, places were made for them, and everything went on in the most informal way. Vistors sometimes came from a distance of twenty or thirty miles without the slightest notice, expecting to spend the night. Besides these casual and ordinary guests there were regular vistors who came at certain intervals. They included the clergymen of the parish, the judge, the piano-tuner, the manufacturer who purchased the wool produced on the farm, the organ-grinder and the peddler.

Caulk's Field....

Proving Ground for Militiamen of Kent

The War of 1812 clutched the infant nation. All Maryland had been alerted. Across the Chesapeake Bay bodies of volunteers were camped ready to move at a moment's notice. It was August, 1814. In Kent the 21st Regiment of Maryland Militia under Colonel Philip A. Reed was encamped at Belle Air, now known as Fairlee, about five miles from the bay shore and seven miles west of Chestertown. The regiment consisted of five companies of infantry, one cavalry, and one artillery company, in all just 174 men. They had five artillery pieces and though fairly well equipped with guns, pistols and swords, had but twenty rounds of ammunition for each man.

News reached Colonel Reed late on Saturday afternoon, August 27th, that a British frigate was headed up the bay abreast of Swan Point accompanied by two smaller vessels. This ship was the **Menelaus,** commanded by Captain Sir Peter Parker. In addition to her regular crew, she carried about one hundred and twenty soldiers and was armed with thirty-eight guns, only six less than our famous ship **Constitution.**

Sir Peter Parker had been ordered to make a diversion on the Eastern Shore to prevent the troops from crossing the bay to the assistance of Baltimore. He was to capture small bodies of American soldiers, burn farm houses along the bay shore, and harass the people in every possible way.

On Sunday, August 28th, his men put the torch to John Waltham's farm, "Skidmore", and next day fired Richard Frisby's farm, part of the tract known as "Great Oak Manor." Moving down the bay Tuesday night, August 30th, the **Menelaus** anchored off the shore about a mile north of the farm on which Tolchester is now located, abreast of the farm "Chantilly".

Captain Parker had been told by one of the negroes on Mr. Frisby's farm that about two hundred militia were camped behind a woods about a mile inland. The negro intentionally mis-led the British, as the troops under Colonel Reed were five miles away.

About twelve o'clock at night, a picket brought word to Colonel Reed that Captain Parker "had landed about one hundred and fifty men" and was marching eastward out the road past the north end of the "Big Swamp." The moon had risen, throwing long shadows over the fields and making objects in the mist of the summer night difficult to distinguish.

The American militia advanced at once. Proceeding toward the bay, they crossed the "Tulip Forest", "Eccleston" and "Everest" farms, and reached Mr. Isaac Caulk's farm a little after midnight. On a ridge south of the farmhouse Colonel Reed halted his men and formed in position to cover the probable advance of the British. To the left of the ridge the main road ran toward the bay; to the right of the road a strip of heavy timber stretched to the west. In front of the American positions was the open low land, perhaps fifty acres, of "Moore's Field."

The head of the British column soon appeared and received the fire of Reed's advance party at 70 paces. The firing became general along the line. The British pressed Reed's front; repulsed, they attacked the left flank, but that held fast. Firing by both sides reached a furious peak, then the British fire decreased. So did the American—some of Reed's men had fired all their scanty ammunition and his artillery had not a single charge. One of the field pieces had been captured by the British, but Reed's valiant men took it back in a grim moonlit struggle.

— Continued on Page 38

— Scenes at Dedication of Caulk's Field Monument, in 1902, just 88 years after battle

TODD'S FURNITURE STORES, INC., CHESTERTOWN & CENTREVILLE - PARK CLEANERS, EST., 1934, CHESTERTOWN, SPONSORS

Miss Kitty Knight Defies the British . . .

One of the most romantic tales that bloomed in Kent County's history is the thrilling story of Miss Kitty Knight's defiance of the British troops at Georgetown during the War of 1812. Practically all school children are acquainted with this bit of history, though little of it is documented. Historians agree, however, on the burning of the Sassafras River town on May 6, 1813. An account of the incident has been brought to light by Mrs. Harriett L. W. Hill, a scion of one of Kent's old families.

Miss Kitty Knight was one of the most beautiful and accomplished women Kent County had ever produced. Tall and graceful, her hair dressed high on her head in the colonial style, she was queenly in appearance. She attended one of the great State balls in Philadelphia during a session of the Continental Congress in that city and danced with General Washington. She lived in a lovely large brick home in Georgetown at the time of the British invasion.

The British sailed up the Sassafras River that historic day reputedly under the command of an Admiral Cockburn. Great was the consternation among the townspeople at the rumored approach of the British soldiers. The men of all classes, and boys able to shoulder a musket or use any other weapon, hastily collected whatever arms they could and marched out of the town to meet the foe and prevent, if possible, his nearer approach.

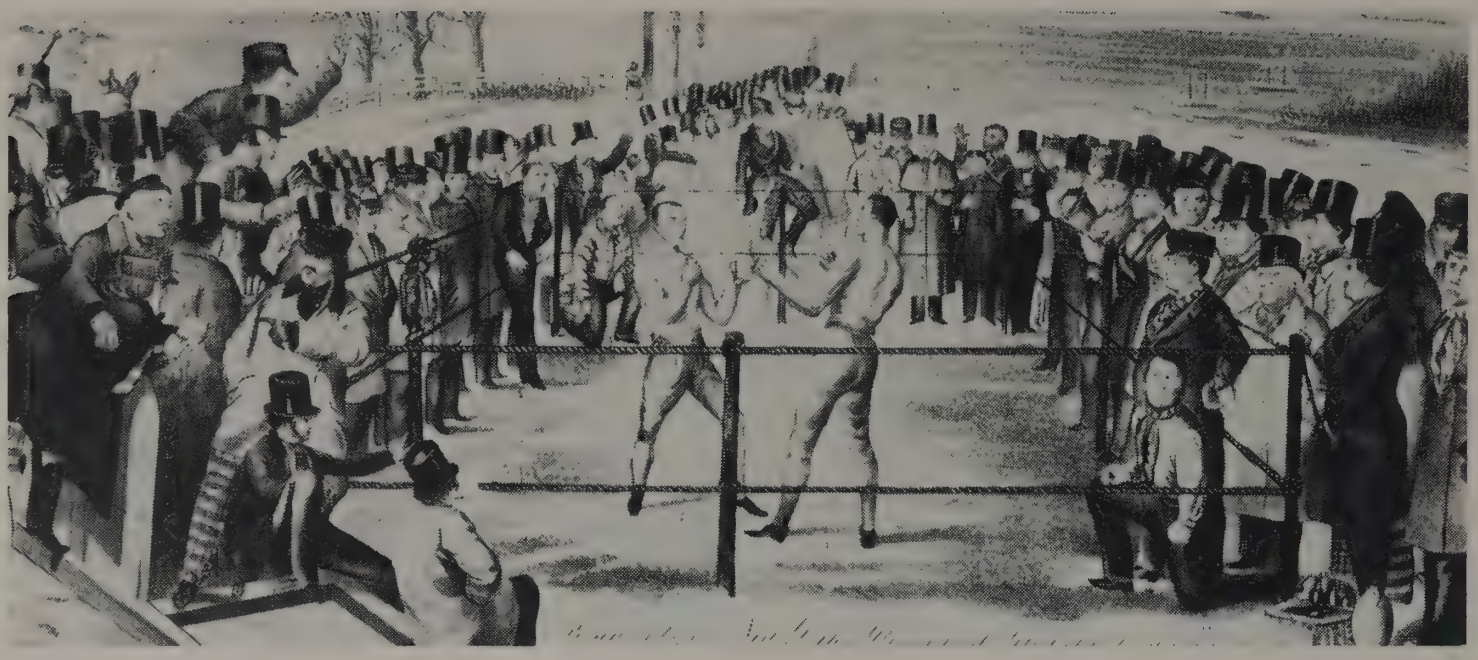
Only old men, women and children remained to guard their homes and household treasures. Alarming news came from time to time of the continued onward march of the enemy. At length the firing of guns was clearly heard by the citizens of the town as they hastened in search of a place of safety. There was a universal natural desire to escape the destruction of their homes and also to carry away with them as much of their valuables as was possible in their flight.

Mrs. Ireland, then a resident of Georgetown, many years later described the terror she experienced with her small children and their nurse as they fled. She took her youngsters and their nurse in a horse-drawn "gig" to a thick woods about two miles from the town. From there, while they remained hidden, she made several trips back to her home, catching up her table silver, valuable papers and other small articles, and clothing. She took everything she could in her small conveyance, thus saving a few of her possessions from the fire which afterwards consumed the town. It was a time of great distress to the stricken people, who were experiencing only a common result of warfare.

The British troops finally gained the town and went from house to house, bearing the order of their commander to vacate all homes as the torch would be applied. Miss Kitty Knight, with head erect and eyes flashing, replied to the order: "I shall not leave; if you burn this house, you burn me with it." This defiant reply being reported to the officer, while some of the houses were already in flames, caused him to come himself to repeat his command. Miss Kitty received him with the same courage, repeating her resolution not to leave. The young officer was struck with admiration at the daring of the high-spirited, handsome young American woman, and felt that she would keep her word if he persisted in his design to burn all houses in the town. Twice when the attempt was made by British soldiers to fire the house, Miss Kitty extinguished the flames. At last, in deference to her coolness and courage, the officer gave the order to spare her house and the one next to it — both of which are still preserved.

Years later, a friend of hers told about the chance meeting on the Riviera of a Kent County gentlemen and the same British officer who commanded the attack on Georgetown. The officer, on learning that the American came from Maryland, described his recollections of Miss Knight's courage in saving her home from the torch, and learning that she was still living, sent her his sincere compliments.

THE KITTY KNIGHT HOUSE, A. MATTHEWS, GEORGETOWN, SPONSOR



The Hyer-Sullivan Match

One of the most notorious prizefights in the history of the sport took place in the county a little over a century ago. It was on Wednesday, February 7, 1849, that there occurred at Worton Point a meeting of the two prize-fighting giants of that time, Yankee Sullivan and Thomas Hyer. It was in the court house in Chestertown, shortly afterward, that a legal end was written to that strictly illegal sporting event.

In 1849, prize-fighting was an act of such criminal import that policemen and militiamen would chase the participants all over the Chesapeake Bay in an effort to prevent their meeting.

The fight between Sullivan and Hyer on that February day was an out-and-out grudge match for a winner-take-all stake of $10,000. Four boats carrying the principals, backers and reporters first headed for Poole's Island but a steamer from Baltimore with police and militia broke up the fight attempt there. The boats eluded the police, however, and at 2 P. M. they landed at Roach's Point (Worton) with Hyer and Sullivan.

A lead story in **The Kent News** of the following Friday gives this description of the match:

THE PRIZE FIGHT

The fight between Yankee Sullivan and Tom Hyer for ten thousand dollars came off upon the premises of Mr. W. A. Gibson in this county about 8 miles from Chestertown. We learn that they intended fighting on Poole's Island, but being run from there by police, proceeded up the Bay and landed at the place spoken of above. Mr. Gibson being from home, they took possession and drew a ring in a large green yard in front of the home. The combatants entered the ring about four o'clock; they fought 15 rounds—time 13 minutes. The 15th round Sullivan refused to come and Hyer was declared to be victorious. The citizens of our County had no idea that the fight would take place here, or it would have been prevented. The Sheriff (as soon as he got wind of it) started with a posse to arrest the parties, but they had 'made tracts.' The matter will be investigated at the March term of our Court, and we have no doubt that these ruffians will yet find out that they cannot trample upon our laws with impunity.

Newspaper accounts of the time say little about any attempt to bring the loser, Sullivan, to justice, but Maryland's Attorney General instituted extradition proceedings against Hyer, who was found in Philadelphia. Hyer was arrested by a bench warrant and his hearing drew tremendous crowds in front of the court house there.

Hyer expressed himself as not wishing to escape his responsibilities of his recent act and was willing to answer the laws of Maryland. He explained that he had been followed from city to city by Sullivan for the purpose of invoking a fight. Insult upon insult had been heaped upon him by Sullivan, Hyer said, and the privacy of his home had been invaded and even his old mother insulted and abused. He said his acts had been those of self defense after repeated insults and injuries. He asked to be admitted to bail in Philadelphia.

The hearing disclosed that the stakeholder for the fight, John Fink, had paid over $10,000 to Hyer, the winner.

As a result of the Philadelphia hearing, Hyer was turned over to Maryland authorities; on February 17th, just ten days after the fight, he was brought before a Baltimore court. The court released him in $3,000 bail and he was bound over to appear at the March term of the Kent County court for trial. His trial duly took place on March 22. The case was argued for the State by Col. Wickes, B. C. Wickes, Esq., and a Mr. Young of Baltimore; for the defense, by Albert Constable, Esq., and the Hon. James Albert Pearce.

From the coverage accorded this trial, interest must have been high, for all other cases on the docket, including shootings, robberies, runaways and rape, got little attention from the local editor. In fact, except for a small paragraph which lumped all the other court actions, the entire story was devoted to the Hyer trial. Hyer was found guilty and he was fined $1,000.

An Incident of 1863....

Arrest the Citizens!

A Civil War schemer, covetous of Kent political office, attempted to rig an election with military force.... His downfall came when he issued an order to ————

> "APOLOGY—It is hardly necessary for us to apologize for the appearance of our paper today, as our readers very generally are aware that we were arrested on Tuesday last, on some frivolous pretext, and sent off to Baltimore in company with other 'prisoners', — an account of which will be found in another column."

With that notice, **The Kent News,** Chestertown newspaper, on November 7, 1863, bared an attempt to rig the county elections. The incident was a shocking example of the invasion of the rights of free men.

At a headquarters in Baltimore, General Schenck had charge of the Department of Maryland; in Kent County, John Frazier was provost marshal. Military law was in the ascendancy. Elections were about to be held in Kent County.

J. B. Ricaud was the Union candidate for state senator and Jesse K. Hines for clerk. John Frazier wanted to be clerk himself, and a full ticket was put out with his name at the head. On November 2, the day before the election, two large government transport steamers arrived in Chestertown loaded with soldiers. The military, under the command of Lt. Col. Charles Carroll Tevis, proceeded to arrest everyone presumed to be in the way of Frazier's ambition to the clerkship. Hines and Ricaud, Col. Edward Wilkins and W. T. Perkins, were seized; the jail was forced and deputy-sheriff Benjamin taken; and the election judges, John T. Dodd, Charles Stanley and Thomas Baker, were arrested.

Next, the office of **The Kent News** was surrounded and Frazier led an armed squad of soldiers inside. He instructed the editors, William B. Usilton and James H. Plummer, to print fifty circulars bearing orders for the conduct of the next day's election. The editors at first refused, then, perhaps wisely, changed their minds; they printed the order, but retained a copy. The circular, later tabbed "Colonel Tevis' Last Order", read:

> "Headquarters, Third Maryland Cavalry, Chestertown, November 3, 1863. —Whereas, The President of the United States, in reply to a letter addressed to him by Hon. Thomas Swann, of Baltimore City, has stated that all loyal, qualified voters should have a right to vote, it therefore becomes every truly loyal citizen to avail himself of the present opportunity to place himself honorably upon the record or poll book at the approaching election, by giving a full and ardent support to the whole Government ticket upon the platform adopted by the Union League Convention. None other is recognized by the Federal authorities as loyal or worthy of the support of anyone who desires the peace and restoration of this Union."

The editors were then treated like the other prisoners. They were marched under armed guard to the wharf, where they found the other distinguished citizens previously arrested being held in a dark lower saloon of one of the steamers. At ten o'clock that night they arrived in Baltimore. They were taken to General Schenck's headquarters and interviewed by Col. Don Piatt, Chief of Staff, apparently without seeing the General. The Colonel, before he had heard the whole story, remarked that Col. Tevis had strangely misunderstood his orders. But when a copy of Tevis' celebrated "Last Order" was placed before him, he was overcome with indignation at this assumption of authority on Tevis' part. He promised to revoke the order, and to get the gentlemen back to Chestertown at once.

In the meanwhile, two men marked for arrest by Frazier had evaded his troops and made their way to Baltimore with news of his activities. These men, Major Gen. George Vickers and George B. Westcott, Esq., saw General Schench early the next morning. He expressed fierce indignation at the outrageous conduct of Frazier and Tevis and immediately issued orders for their arrest.

— Painting depicts General Washington's visit to College in 1784 when second commencement was held

Presidential Visits To Kent County

Chestertown has been host to four presidents of the United States: George Washington, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower. It may seem remarkable that the little town should have received their attention. Actually, all four had the same ultimate destination - Washington College. George Washington came in his capacity as a member of the College's governing board; the others came to receive honorary degrees.

Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James A. Garfield also visited locally, though none had become president at the time of their visit.

Washington made at least eight trips to Kent County. He may have made others, but they have not been authenticated. On his first trip, in 1756, he started from Alexandria, Virginia, en route to Boston. Taking the route popular at the time, he journeyed to Annapolis, then by boat to Rock Hall, and then through Chestertown north. Subsequent trips were made during ensuing years, the last in 1793. An entry in his diary for May 13, 1773, relates: "After Breakfast and abt. 8 Oclock, set out for Rockhall where we arrived in two hours and 25 Minutes. Dind on Board the Annapolis at Chester Town, and Supped and lodgd at Ringold's."

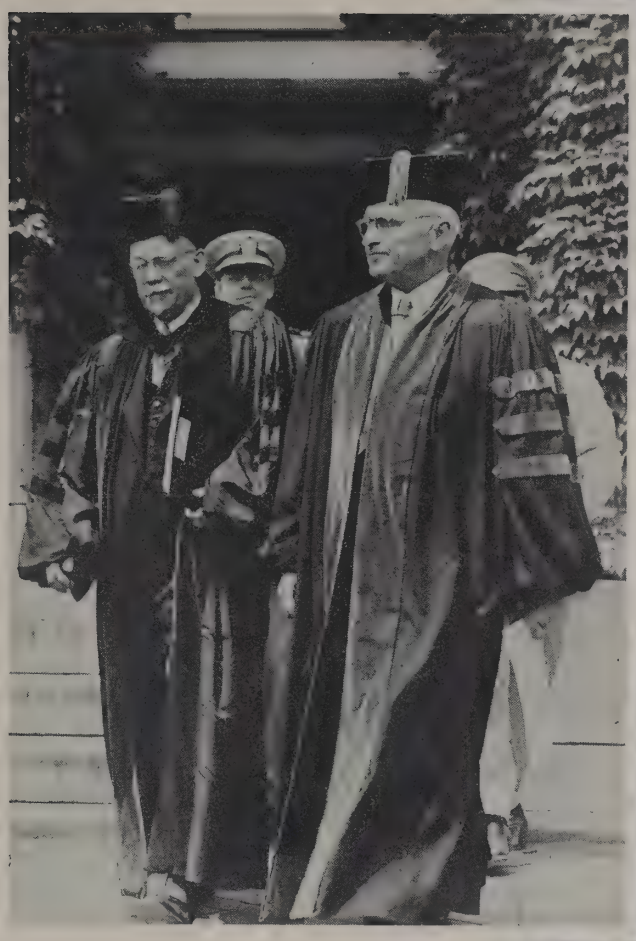
One hundred and forty years passed before another White House occupant came to Chestertown. On October 12, 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt's arrival to accept an honorary college degree attracted more than 10,000 people to the town. On this occasion, the Chief Executive traveled by yacht up the Chester River and was entertained at Godlington Manor, river estate of Col. Hiram S. Brown, who was chairman of the Visitors and Governors of the College.

Water travel was still an accepted mode of transportation on the route from Washington, D. C., in 1946 when Harry S. Truman made the trip on June 1. Mr. Truman crossed the Chesapeake on the ferry **John M. Dennis** and then motored on up the Eastern Shore to Chestertown. Dwight D. Eisenhower, however, disregarded the traditional water travel to reach the town on June 7, 1954. He flew to Dover, Delaware, and completed the trip by automobile.

Thomas Jefferson, when Washington's Secretary of State, and James Madison, at the time congressman from Virginia, stopped in Kent in September, 1790, while on the way to New York, and ancient records describe their pleasure at feasting on crabs in Rock Hall. Jefferson made thirty-some trips between Virginia and the North, using various routes, and his account books identify six trips through Chestertown.

Garfield, another subsequent occupant of the White House, came to town during the congressional campaigns in 1863 to speak at a mass meeting in the court house, according to an account in The Chestertown **Transcript** (March 10, 1881). "Civil War feeling was at a white heat," the paper noted. It went on: "Garfield had become fairly well launched in his speech when an egg came whizzing through the air, passed within an inch of his head, and smashed against the wall behind him. However, it was not a rotten egg. . . . Garfield was not much interrupted by the occurrence and finished his speech."

— President Roosevelt and Col. H. S. Brown



— President Truman and Dr. Mead

— President Eisenhower and Dr. Gibson

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Joe Doupnik

Membership Committee
W. Vernon Kirby
Richard McCown

Horse Committee
Paul Gildersleeve

We wish to thank Roy Jones, Stage Manager of the Washington College Players, for the help of his backstage crew in the staging of the pageant.

Cast of "The Chestertown Story"

1. Prologue and Salute to Youth

Sponsored by: Chestertown, Rock Hall and Galena High Schools

Peggy Williams
Frances R. Cullis
Joyce Oliffe
Wibs McLain
Sadie Collins
Louan Smith
Joanna Meigs
Sue Fallowfield
Barbara Kendall
Joyce Schauber
Barbara Brown
Nancy Wiltbank
Beverly Frank
Helen Faulkner
Nancy Sutton
Louise Weihenmayer
Genevieve Schultz
Mary Papperman
Janice Kendall
Jane Cushwa
Ann Pinder
Martha Thorne
Ann Lee Elburn
Francis Hepbron
Kitty Kester
Ruth Coxon
Jackie Collyer
B. J. Loller
Jo Ann Jones
Anne Gorman
Hazel Gillespie
Joan Sapp
Barbara Grant
Nancy Hare

2. Indian Episodes

Indians sponsored by Garnett High School, Capt. Smith's Party by Rock Hall High School

Indian Men and Women

Miss F. Jane Chandler
Miss Frances Cann
Miss Delores Wallace
Mrs. Emma Mays
Mrs. Blondine Phillips
Mrs. William Byers, Jr.
Mrs. Rosemary J. Byers
Robert Perry
Elmer E. Campher
Kenneth Walley
Robert Brown
Lucious Scott
Melvin Hamilton

Indian Dancers

Ina Jones
Mercedes Turner
Mary Graves
Patricia Lindsey
Doris Graves
Lorraine Goldsboro

Capt. Smith's Party

Roger Thorn
Joe Strong Downey
Albert Boulter
Richard Westcott
Page Hickman
Ralph Cox
Nelson Rodney
Leo Edwards

3. Colonial Episodes

Sponsored by: Chestertown Garden Club; Children of American Revolution; Daughters of American Revolution; Greenfingers Garden Club.

Richard Sawyer
Sue Sawyer
Arthur Pinder
Kathryn Pinder
Kay Pinder
Sandra Pinder
Peggy and Bill Morin and two sons
Charles H. Silcox
Florence B. Silcox
Ann A. Silcox
L. Harry Silcox
Betty G. Waddell
William H. Waddell
Betty Forney and Children - Michael, Geraldine, Dennis, Mary
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Coleman
Patsy Coleman
Donnie Coleman
Robert Coleman
Mrs. J. T. Anthony & Jeanie
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. D. Gould
Helen and Gerald Myers
Mrs. Hare, Susan & Marcia
Mrs. Burns & Robin

MINUET — C. A. R.

Robin Burns
Susan Hare
Marcia Hare
Jerry Forney
Joanna Pinder
Kay Pinder
Jean Anthony
Susanne Long
Carol Lee Pinder
Harry Keen
Parky Keen
Ricky Meigs

4. War of 1812 Scenes

Sponsored by: Chestertown Rotary Club; Rock Hall High School

Roger Thorn
Joe Strong Downey
Albert Boulter
Richard Wescott
Page Hickman
Ralph Cox
Nelson Rodney
Leo Edwards
Arthur Keefe
George Johnson
Wm. Morin
Roger Simpkins
Vernon Kirby
Henry Gill
Ted Landskroener
Reade Corr
Jim Matt
Phil Skipp
Jim Elzey

5. Plantation Episode

Sponsored by: Beta Sigma Phi; Chestertown Garden Club; Chestertown High School; Garnett High School

Mr. & Mrs. Monroe Hudson, Phyllis, Pattie & Elizabeth
Miss Alice H. Deringer
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Fletcher
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Moffett and Nancy Belle
Mr. & Mrs. Walter T. Morris, Jr., Ted and Anne
Mr. & Mrs. George L. Kennedy
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Joiner
Mr. & Mrs. Palmer Tate, Chris and Wayne
Mrs. Anne Makosky
James Gent
John Solloway
Doug Whiteley
Richard Jacobs
Emory Wallace
Ted Morris

PLANTATION DAYS CHOIR — Roy F. Knight, Directing

Mrs. Mary Chambers
Mrs. Anna Boyer
Mrs. Inez Garner
Miss Amy Hynson
Miss Loretta Sampson
Mrs. Irene Elias
Mrs. Shirley Tiller
Mrs. Virginia Hanley
Mrs. Elsie Briscoe
Mrs. Georgia Johnson
Mrs. Lena Johnson
Mrs. Dorothy Harris
Mrs. Helen Lively
Mrs. Louise Johnson
Mrs. Helen Hamilton
Mrs. Gladys Gilbert
Mrs. Marie Johnson
Mrs. Irene Hamilton
Mrs. Margaret Ringgold
Mrs. Mildred Dashiell
Dougelle L. Everette
Thomas Harris
Randolph Harris
Mrs. Lucille Smith
Miss Margaret Johnson
Mrs. Alice Allen

6. Turn Of The Century Episodes

Sponsored by: Salem Men's Club; Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company; Washington College; Daughters of America

CAN-CAN DANCERS

Natalie Wadkovsky
Emily Brimer
Carolyn Andrews
Anna Lucie Allspach
Toni Stallone
Anne Funkey
Kathleen Brackett

FAIR AT TOLCHESTER BEACH

Hilda Raleigh
Donald Raleigh
Albert Raleigh
Doris Raleigh
Hope Raleigh
Doris S. Plummer
Ralph Plummer
Ralph, Jr., Landis & Ronald Lee Plummer
Mr. & Mrs. John Wynn, Gail and Jack
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph N. Strong, Diana and Joe-Boy
Mr. & Mrs. James Moore, Jimmie and Mike
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hadaway, Hugh and Arnold
Carl Plummer
Arthur and Kathryn Pinder, Kay and Sandra
Marie B. Legg
Alice B. Pangle
Thelma Bennett
Myrtle Coleman
Doris C. Jacquette
Lenora Z. Jamar
Mrs. Carl Plummer
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Walbert

FIREMEN

Bill Thomas
Rich Gorsuch
Ernest Leverage
Lou Slagle
George Brooks
Walter Elburn
Harvey Blyman
Richard George
Dave Hoopes

Cast of "The Chestertown Story"

7. Roaring 20's

Sponsored by: Chestertown High School

Dorothy Middleton
Page Kelly
Carol Porter
Chris Tarbutton
Margaret Hopkins
Sally Deringer
Patsy Coleman
Ann Learman
Margaret McHenry

8. World War II Scenes

Sponsored by: Members of Company G, 115th Infantry Regiment, Maryland National Guard

9. Choir — Directed by Robert Forney

George Gorsuch
Dr. S. Holt Wright
Wm. Coleman
Oscar Whittaker
Elwood Taylor
Townsend Anthony
Emil Albrecht
Mrs. Emil Albrecht
Wallace Smith
Mrs. Elizabeth Gorsuch
Mrs. Frances Taylor
Mrs. Elizabeth Pyle
Miss Ann Coleman
Miss Madeline Bell
Mrs. Frances Russell
Mrs. Hazel Moffett
Mrs. Mary Louise Jones
Hope Dill
Louis Newsome
Benj. Williams
Richard Newsome
Mrs. Mary Hatcherson
Mrs. Elma Myers
Miss Virginia Kendall
Mrs. Elston Kendall
Mrs. Howard Jones, Sr.
Mrs. Chas. Gipe
Miss Sally Newsome
Mrs. Blanche Hamilton
Miss Joan Usilton
Mrs. Brice Starkey
Louis Hollett
Joe Auman
Mrs. Sol Walbert
Wm. Ireland
Mrs. Wm. Ireland
James Williams
Mrs. Raymond Long
Mrs. Frank Barnes
Miss Pat Barnes
Miss Ethel Williams
Mrs. Dorothy Joiner
Miss Caroline Cooper
Mrs. Sidney Brown
Mrs. Chas. Gollub
Mrs. Glen Turner
Mrs. Howard Toulson
Mrs. Ella Morton
Don Dickey
Mrs. Don Dickey
Miss Ann Smith
Mrs. Ed. Pyle, Jr.
Mrs. Lois Baldwin
Mrs. Geo. Field
James Porter
Carvel Robinson
Mrs. Mary Pippin
Conrad Rizer
Mrs. Conrad Rizer
Miss Harriette Welch
Mrs. Jack Stenger
Mrs. Preston P. Heck
Mrs. Phyllis Gray
Miss Lottie Peacock
Gilbert Watson
Pat Biddle
Mrs. Chas. Gill
Miss Tonie Baxter
Geo Hessler
Wm. Tepper
J. Kellogg-Smith
Mrs. Elsie Russell
Mrs. Shirley Baldwin
John Wynn
Mrs. Leona Woodall

10. Organist — Lew Kent

11. Narrators — from Washington Players

Sally Groome
Barbara Dew
Robert Colborn
Ernest Sandison

— *Continued from Page 28*

Caulk's Field . . . .

Reed pulled his men back and distributed the few remaining cartridges along the line; he sent the artillery and the infantry or whom there were no cartridges back to Belle Air.

But the British fire ceased and it became evident that they were retreating. Sir Peter Parker, while directing his men's fire, had received a mortal wound; carried from the field, he died within a few minutes. Nine British dead were left on the field, and nine wounded ,,six of whom died in the course of a few hours. Other wounded had been carried back to the **Menelaus**.

The Americans suffered three casualties, none critical. These were Sergeant John Magnor, Corporal Philip Crane and Private John Glanville. Colonel Reed subsequently reported to Brig. General Chambers that "the gallantry of the officers and men engaged on this occasion could not be excelled by any troops."

In 1902 a handsome granite battle marker was placed beside the main road that leads from Chestertown to Tolchester on "Caulk's Field." Bearing the inscription, "Erected to commemorate the Patriotism and Fortitude of the Victor and Vanquished", it pays equal tribute to the valor of Kent's fighting men and the unfortunate British who had dared invade Kent County.

— *Continued from Page 25*

The Churches Flourished . . . .

nual Conference should have as much say as the minister from his church. Other differences also arose and when the questions were voted down at a meeting, the small losing group walked out, subsequently to organize the Methodist Protestant Church. Sixteen persons were present at an organizational meeting on July 13, 1827, at which John Constable presided and James Harris was secretary. The first church, a white-washed brick building, was erected in 1829 under the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. John R. Reese. It was located on Cross and Cannon Streets, far away from the thoroughfare of the town at that time, on a site that today is the home of Kent Publishing Company, publishers of **The Kent County News.** The deed was drawn from George W. Thomas to John Constable, James Mansfield, John Turner (Still Pond), Richard Seymour, and David Arthur, Trustees of the Associated Methodists of Chestertown. There followed several changes of location and buildings until 1888, when the present structure on High Street was dedicated. The action of the local Reformers in 1827 coincided with a general movement on the lower Easter Shore to establish a new church. During the summer of that year, ministers and leading citizens formed a society and elected delegates to a November General Conference. They adopted the name "Methodist Protestant", suggested by the Rev. Dr. Francis Waters, a former president of Washington College.

from one of these . . . . A Queen Is Crowned!

A suspenseful feature of the days preceding the 250th Anniversary Celebration has been the program to select a Queen for the historic event. This has not been a "beauty contest" in the strict sense of the term . . . . Rather it has been a selection based on beauty, plus charm, poise, and personality . . . . The choice has been made by the popular Hollywood leading man, Tony Curtis, and will be announced at the Colonial Ball, Friday night, October 5th . . . . Mr. Curtis has made three choices, first, second and third . . . . His Excellency, Theodore R. McKeldin, will crown the Queen; and Bailey Goss, noted Radio and TV personality of Baltimore, will be master-of-ceremonies . . . . Guilio Gari, rising young Metropolitan Opera Company tenor, will sing several numbers in the course of the program.

The fourteen candidates for the title of "Anniversary Queen" and the organizations which sponsored them are:—

Miss Ann Coleman, Chestertown
Daughters of America

Miss Nancy Copper, Betterton
Chestertown Junior Chamber of Commerce

Mrs. Susie Gildersleeve, Quaker Neck
Chestertown Lions Club

Mrs. Dorothy Joiner, Worton
Beta Sigma Phi Sorority

Miss Faye Kennedy, Kennedyville
Kennedyville Fire Company Auxiliary
Kennedyville Homemakers Club
Kent County Farm Bureau

Miss Susan Kirby, Quaker Neck
Chestertown Business Men's Association

Miss Lidia Livingston, Chestertown
Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company

Miss Page Kenly Roe, Quaker Neck
Chestertown Rotary Club

Miss Henrietta Stenger, Chestertown
Old Kent Chapter — D. A. R.

Miss Anne Trew, Chestertown
Kent's 4-H Clubs
Kent's Homemakers' Clubs

Miss Ann Walls, Millington
Salem Men's Fellowship of Fairlee

Miss Barbara Williams, Rock Hall
Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company

Miss Jane Wiltbank, Worton
Still Pond — Betterton Lions Club

Mrs. Doris Wyatt, Chestertown
Frank M. Jarman Post, American Legion

Patron's List

Anthony's Flowers
Lawrence (Larry) A. Beck, Trophies
Bonnett's Dept. Store
J. LeRoy Boyer, Business Service
Katie Bramble's
The Chestertown Brick Co.
Chestertown Marble and Granite Works
Chestertown Pharmacy
Chester Liquors, Inc.
Church Hill Lumber Co., Contractors
College Cleaners, Inc.
John H. Dulany and Son, Incorporated
Easton Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Inc.
Andrew J. Evans, Duro Test Lamps
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Kings Town Tractor Co.
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Mr. & Mrs. A. J. McWilliam
J. G. Metcalfe, Price, Md.
Edward T. (Ted) Miller
Oriole Dept. Store
Ozman's Body Shop
Mr. & Mrs. Donald G. Perkins, Real Estate
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Rock Hall Marine Railway Co.
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Stam Drug Co.
Southern Desk Co., Hickory, N. C.
Townshend Kane & Co.
Town Stationers, Earl H. Pinder
Harry J. Tucker, Contractor
United Logging and Piling Corp.
C. Burton Vansant-Atlantic Heating Oils
Peg and Walt Volker
The Webb Packing Co.
Wilson, Nuttal, Raimond, Engineers
Wootten's Welding Supplies

Those Who Saw Action at Caulk's Field

The names of the companies and the men in each company that fought under Colonel Reed at Caulk's Field on the night of August 31, 1814, were as follows:

CAPTAIN EZEKIEL F. CHAMBERS, COMPANY: Thomas Eunick, Lieutenant; William Skirven, Ensign; and the following men: Aaron Alford, Thomas Bordley, Benjamin Benton, David Chambers, Benjamin Lee Chambers, Philip Crane, Isaiah Coleman, James Coleman, Lemuel Comegys, Robert Constable, Edward Coleby, Thomas Dugan, Alexander Dunk, Samuel Deal, William Elliott, David Falls, Samuel Floyd, James Gooding, Samuel Griffith, George Haltzman, James Hickenbottom, Zabedel Herbert, James Haley, John Jones, Richard Kennard, Thomas J. Kennard, John Kemp (drummer), William S. Lassell, William C. Lasell, John Magnor (Sergeant), James Mansfield, James D. Miller, William Notts, Samuel Rumney, Theophelus Russell, James Robinson, Andrea Toulson, John Usselton, James Vickers, Jesse Vickers, George Watts, Joseph Wickes (4th), Thomas Wickes.

CAPTAIN HAND'S COMPANY OF VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY: Captain Hand was too ill to serve; Henry Tilghman, Lieutenant; Richard S. Thomas, Ensign; and the following men: Robert Barnes, James F. Brown, Henry Copper, John B. Eccleston, James Edwards, Jeremiah Nichols, Arthur Parsley, James Ringgold, Jr., Joseph Redue, Henry Robertson, Samuel Elbert, Joseph Gibbs, William Hyland, William Hague, Thomas J. James, James Maslin, James Middleton, William Martin, Robert McGuire, Wilson Stayeley, Richard Seymour, Nathaniel Tonson, Thomas Taylor, Thomas Vickers, James Wilcox, Lemuel Wilmer, John R. Wilmer.

CAPTAIN SIMON WICKES, JR.'S RIFLE CORPS: Joseph Brown, First Lieutenant, John Beck, Second Lieutenant; and the following men: John Airy, Peregrine Beck, John Beck, Samuel Coleman, Eliphar Dowling, Richard Fricks, Robert Fellingham, Thomas Hartley, John Hyland, John Jones, Richard Kennard, William Lamb, John Pearce, Levin Rolinson, Bazilla Sparks, Horatio Stokes, James Smith, Richard Smith, Elish Swift, James Tharp, Henry Urie, Samuel C. Wickes, James Yates.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRIFFITH'S COMPANY: Joseph Thomas, Lieutenant, and the following men: Samuel Baker, Hiram Brown, John Crouch, James Crouch, Henry Dank, Barney DeCourse, Jonathan Harriss, David Jones, William Kendall, George G. Simmonds.

CAPTAIN THOMAS B. HYNSON'S COMPANY: Richard Grant, Lieutenant; and the following men: William Hague, Robert Love, James Shaw, John Warum, and Peregrine Whaland.

CAPTAIN PAGE'S COMPANY: Samuel Wickes, Lieutenant; Merritt Miller, Ensign; and the following men: George Ashley, Gabriel Alloway, Elisha Beck, Benjamin Benton, Thomas Benton, Stephen Bryan, Thomas Covington, Jesse Covington, Ezekiel Coleman, Jesse Clark, Nathan Cleaves, Thomas Crouch, Robert Collin, James Downey, Nicholas Dudley, John Dunn, James Eagle, William Frisby, John Glanyville, Benjamin Hynson, John Humphrey, James Hudson, William Ivry, James Legg, William Miller, William Simons, Thomas Spencer, Abraham Warum, William Wickes, Jr., John Yearley, Jr.

CAPTAIN AQUILLA M. USSLETON'S ARTILLERY COMPANY: John Reed, Lieutenant; Morgan Brown, Lieutenant; and the following men: William Apsley, Jr., Dulaney Apsley, Philip Carroll, Edward Cannon, John Dugan, Ezekiel Forman, Joseph Gedley, James Hatcherson, Charles Leatherberry, Edward Nicholson, Benedict Pennington, Siras Rasin, Philip Rasin, Jr., Henry H. Steward, James Ussleton, William T. Ussleton, Mathias Wickes, and William Weaver. (19)

Anniversary Souvenirs . . .

On Sale at These Chestertown Stores

Bartley's Store
Bonnett's Dept. Store
Bordley & Son
Katie Bramble's
Cooper's Hardware Store
Washington College Book Store
Robert L. Forney, Jewelry Store
Fox's Five Cent to Five Dollar Store
Paul's Shoe Shop
Great Oak Lodge
Oriole Dept. Store
The Rendezvous Store
Town and Country Shop
Towne Stationers
Truitt's Card and Gift Shoppe
William's Milk Bar
Russum's Antique Shop
250th Anniversary Headquarters

All Souvenirs sold on a non-profit basis by these stores

Credits . . . . and Thanks!

The material incorporated in this booklet is drawn principally from the historical data assembled for the preparation of the pageant, "The Chestertown Story." Other sources were also consulted, every effort being made to insure authenticity of facts. The following works have been used for reference:

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Washington College Archives

SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Page 1—First courthouse: Kent County News
Page 2—Customs House, exterior: courtesy of J. D. McVean
Page 3—Ringgold House, Betsy Ross scene: Constance Stuart Larrabee
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Page 6—Rock of Ages House: Miss Daisy Barnes
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Page 9—The Reward: Constance Stuart Larrabee
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Page 13—Perkins Mill site: (White House Farm) L. Dudley Reed
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Page 19—William Smith portrait; original college building: Washington College
Page 20—College campus, circa 1880: photograph by Professor William H. Zimmerman, loaned by Mrs. Nell C. Westcott
Page 21—Contemporary campus; undergraduate group: Constance Stuart Larrabee
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Page 25—Old St. Paul's: Constance Stuart Larrabee
Page 25—Colonial Church going: courtesy Md. Historical Society
Page 26—Print Shop: International Paper Company
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Page 28—Caulk's Field Monument Dedication: courtesy Enoch Pratt Free Iibrary
Page 29—Kitty Knight House: courtesy of the artist, John Moll, Easton
Page 30—Famous Prizefight: Ballantine Brewing Co.
Page 31—Arrest of Citizens, Civil War: *Kent County News*
Page 32—George Washington Attending Washington College Commencement (1784): courtesy of the college
Page 33—Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower receive honorary degrees: courtesy of the college (Eisenhower photograph by L. Dudley Reed)
Page 41—Souvenirs: L. Dudley Reed

(We are grateful to all those who made a special effort to help bring this booklet into existence by furnishing photographs and other illustration. The Editor)

Prize Donors . . . Gifts . . . and Thanks !

Trophies, Prizes and Donations have come to the committee through the generosity of the following individuals and firms . . . We are sure this list is incomplete . . . But many names were not available when this Souvenir Program went to press . . . However, to all, we extend sincere thanks and appreciation . . . .

Anniversary Queen & Court are provided with numerous delightful gifts by the following:-

A dress designed especially for the Queen by Madeleine Fauth.

Bouquets for the Queen and Court by Anthony's Flowers and Elburn's.

Individual presents by Fox's Store, Dr. A. L. Sterling, The Hecht Co., American Stores Company, and Truitt's Card and Gift Shop.

Trophies For Antique Cars have been provided by F. C. Russell, Chestertown Electric Light & Power Co., Judge Stephen R. Collins, Paul's Shoe Shop, Roy C. Mitchell, William H. Elliott, E. S. Adkins & Co., Peerless Fertilizer Co., Kunkel Service Co., Watkins Auto Parts Co., Hickman's Gulf Service, Chester Motors, Inc., Kent Motor Co., Ozman's Body Shop, Jewell Bros., Inc., Crouch Motors, The Tire Shop, Eliason Motors, Inc., Henry Gsell, Don Kelly, Garrett F. Chaires, Bata Shoe Co., Clarence Minner, Paul R. Lawrence, Wm. A. Holden, D & R Supply Co., Herbert F. Ward, Dorothy Card Shop, Robert L. Davis, C. H. Silcox, Chestertown Pharmacy, A & C Candy Co., A. S. Turner, Jr.

Street Parade Prizes include those given by American Stores Co., The National Brewing Company and R. B. Baker & Sons; and Schmidt's Brewery and George O. Yewell, Vita Food Products and Henry Demain . . . Complete listing not available at press time.

"Brothers-of-the-Brush" prizes provided by the Gunther Brewing Company; Calvert Distillers; American Stores Company, and Ronson Electric Shavers.

Kids Fun Day prizes will include donation of ice cream by The Stam Drug Company and Abbotts, assorted prizes by American Stores Company.

— *Continued from Page 13*

Education . . . .

poor school, and my ——— at least L100 less than it was when first I came here and every article of our clothing so extravagantly dear that I cannot get my poor dear little ones a second shirt or shift to wear and Since I failed in getting the business I solicited, as I thought so opportunely, and which wou'd so well have suited with my present situation I really despair of even knowing any assistance this way. However I have wrote once more, instigated by my ——— to try if I cou'd obtain our Lord Propys. order to the Gov. of Maryland to appoint me the Sherif of Kent County, agst. this time 12 months, when the present Sheriff's time expires. Our Sheriffs continue three years, and if a man is exceedingly careful & industrious & meets with no losses he may make in the three years 500L . . ."

— *Continued from Page 3*

A Town Is Born . . . .

Architecture flourished and a splendid heritage was left for later generations in the fastidious attention paid to good carpentry, exquisite ornamental paneling and gracious doorways. Education, nursed from a precarious start in the Kent Free School under Charles Peale, reached illustrious heights when the Free School became Washington College in 1782. Religion continued to have a tempering effect upon the rough and tumble life of the times, providing a tower of strength for the citizens. It was well that Chester Town was so solidly founded by a people of tough fiber. In years to come she was destined to meet one crisis after another, some wrought by man, some natural. Meet them she did, and conquered them. She has every right to be proud of her 250 years.

with Apologies . . . . . .

We know there must be many errors in this publication . . . . But please believe us when we say that such errors are strictly unintentional . . . . Also, we realize there may be many omissions and for this we are sorry . . . . We have done our best and, maybe, when the 500th Anniversary rolls around, we can catch up on the mistakes.

The Editors

— *Continued from Page 5*

New Yarmouth . . . .

The court paid bounties in 1693, aggregating some twelve hundred pounds of tobacco, to a group of five persons for the severed heads of wolves; at the same time it piad two hundred and fifty pounds to one for the job of covering up the smoldering corpse of an Indian.

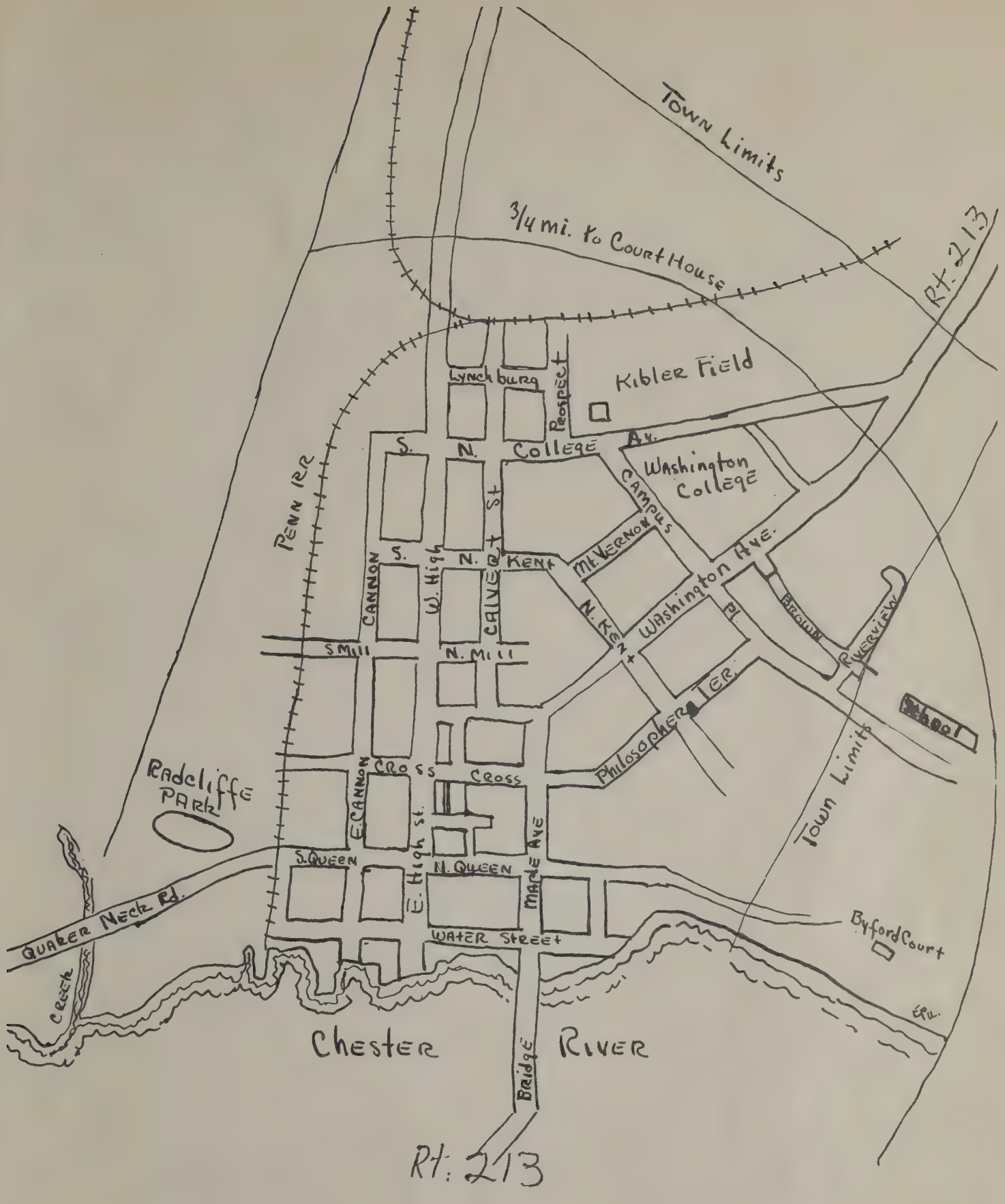
Hemmed in on one side by Gray's Inn Creek, within view of the Chester River and a short distance from the Chesapeake, New Yarmouth was an ideal spot for shipbuilding. Two shipyards rang with the din of the sawing and hammering of planks into hulls. Many vessels were launched on the "stocks" into the Chester. One was "The Torrington Loyalty", a sturdy ship of two hundred tons, built in 1697 for the town of Torrington, England, by John Olliver.

The town's dream to be the seaport of Kent County was abruptly blasted on April 30, 1696, by the passage of an act in Annapolis empowering the commissioners of Kent County to negotiate for the purchase of three acres of land to build a new court house other "than at the present court house." The purchase of three acres of land on the north side of the Chester River between the plantations of Edward Fry and Isaac Caulk was reported to the court by Simon Wilmer, surveyor, that September. Approving the transaction, the court authorized that two thousand pounds of tobacco be raised by county levy to pay for the land. John Sutton, the contractor, was given six thousand pounds of tobacco; the sheriff and Simon Wilmer were paid 992 and 200 pounds of tobacco respectively. Captain Sweetman (or Sweatman) was ordered to construct a prison, fifteen feet long and ten feet wide. The following June, the court house was near ready for occupancy and the captain was directed to plaster it. He was also asked to provide a pillory and stocks with all possible speed.

The last record of a court session in New Yarmouth is April 6, 1696. No mention of the town is made in the court proceedings after that date. Made inconvenient to the needs of the inhabitants by the redrawing of the county's boundaries, its value as a county seat proved worthless, New Yarmouth could not but be silently resigned to its fate, to be far outstripped by Chestertown in the years ahead.

NORMAL HALL
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
METHODIST E CHURCH
CHESTERTOWN HOUSES SAID TO BE OVER 200 YEARS OLD
J.D.LUCAS CLOTHING AND GENTS FURNISHING GOODS
THE ENTERPRISE
L. BATES PUBLISHER

— Bird's-eye view of Chestertown as it appeared to artist in 1907 . . . . at bottom sketches of contemporary buildings



"The Chestertown Story" is presented at **Kibler Field** . . . .Parade of Period Fashions at **Widehall**, corner Water and High streets . . . . Antique exhibit at **Chestertown Library,** corner of High and Queen streets . . . . Off-street parking, **Radcliffe Park**, south Queen St., on Quaker Neck Road; north Washington Avenue at **Morgnec Road; Chestertown High School** athletic field . . . . All colonial homes and gardens on town tour, Monday, October 8, located on **Water Street**, except **Burrell Gardens**, east High Street, and **Byford Court**, north Queen Street extended . . . . Special exhibits in **Bunting Library,** Washington College . . . . **Parade Route,** Saturday morning, starting at 11 a. m.: Down High street from Vita Food to Queen Street, left on Queen to Maple Avenue, west on Maple Avenue to Washington Avenue, north on Washington Avenue to Campus Avenue, disperse. **Antique auto parade** starting at 2 p. m., starts at High School athletic field, west on Campus to Mt. Vernon, left on Mt. Vernon to Kent Circle, right on Kent Circle to High Street, left on High Street to Queen, left on Queen to Maple Avenue, left on Maple Avenue to Washington Avenue, north on Washington Avenue to Campus Avenue, right on Campus Avenue and conclude at High School athletic field. . . . .

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Chestertown's 250th Anniversary

Thursday, October 4th thru Saturday, October 13th, 1956

Thursday, October 4th

8:00 p. m.—Finals of "Brothers-of-the-Brush" Contest at Chestertown High School. Winners to be selected in 4 categories with prizes for each.

Friday, October 5th

8:00 p. m.—Colonial Ball, Russell Gymnasium, Washington College.

9:00 p. m.—Brief presentation of colonial dances under direction of Mrs. Edward E. Woodall.

9:30 p. m.—Crowning of Anniversary Queen by Governor Theodore R. McKeldin, with Bailey Goss as master-of-ceremonies.

Saturday, October 6th

11:00 a. m.—Gala Anniversary Parade featuring floats, marching units, antique fire-fighting equipment, U. S. military bands, and reviewed by celebrities.

2:00 p. m.—Parade and meet staged by Chesapeake Region, Antique Automobile Club of America, with cars on display at Chestertown High School athletic field following parade.

7:30 p. m.—"The Chestertown Story" — Kibler Field

Sunday, October 7th

11:00 a. m.—Homecoming services in all Chestertown churches.

2:00 p. m.—Riding Tournament at Radcliffe Park.

4:00 p. m.—Tea and colonial musicale, Minta Martin Hall, Washington College.

7:30 p. m.—Inter-Faith Religious Service, Kibler Field

Monday, October 8th

11:00 a. m.—Old Homes and Gardens Tour (Chestertown), which continues until 4 p. m.

7:30 p. m.—"The Chestertown Story" — Kibler Field

Tuesday, October 9th

10:00 a. m.—Old Homes and Gardens Tour (north Kent) which continues until 5 p. m.

2:00 p. m.—Youth Day, with special events for boys and girls, including Model Airplane flying exhibition, ice cream eating contest, peanut scramble, introduction of famous sports figures. Kibler Field.

7:30 p. m.—"The Chestertown Story" — Kibler Field

Wednesday, October 10

10:00 a. m.—Old Homes and Gardens Tour (south Kent), which continues until 5 p. m.

11:00 a. m.—Skeet Shoot, Kent Gun Club, route 213 north of Chestertown.

2:30 p. m. Special Negro performance, Kibler Field Washington College.

7:30 p. m.—"The Chestertown Story" — Kibler Field

9:30 p. m.—Wrestling: Chestertown Armory.

Thursday, October 11th

3:00 p. m.—Parade of Period Fashions, with authentic dances and music, waterfront lawn at "Widehall".

7:30 p. m.—Parade of Period Fashions, same location.

7:30 p. m.—"The Chestertown Story" — Kibler Field

Friday, October 12th

3:00 p. m.—Parade of Period Fashions, waterfront lawn at historic "Widehall".

4:00 p. m.—Re-enactment of Chestertown's Tea Party, at foot of High Street by the river.

7:30 p. m.—Salute to Chestertown's and Kent's naval heroes, at Kibler Field, Washington College.
Concert—Bainbridge Naval Training Station Band.
Address — Commandant, Bainbridge Naval Training Station.

Saturday, October 13th

10:30 a. m.—Parade by U. S. Second Army Band and Regimental Drill Team.

11:00 a. m.—Unveiling of historical marker at Kent County Courthouse, with address by Governor Theodore R. McKeldin; and introduction of descendants of prominent persons of the days of the town's founding and early years.

12:00 Noon—Drill Team demonstration and concert by U. S. Second Army Band on Cross Street, in front of Town Square.

1:00 p. m.—Old-time Eastern Shore fish fry and oyster scald, Frank M. Jarman Post, American Legion, Morgnec Road; jointly sponsored by Preston Ashley Post, of Rock Hall.

3:00 p. m.—Soccer Game, Kibler Field, Washington College vs. Bucknell.

7:30 p. m.—"The Chestertown Story" — Kibler Field
Conclusion.

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